

# Bible Story 16: SAMUEL HEARING GOD CALLING

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Samuel 1:28; 2:11,18-21; 3:1-10,19-21

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Samuel 3:10

## BIBLE STORY:

A mother called Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to God. She took her young child to Shiloh, where he lived and helped the priest Eli at the Tabernacle. Eli was the religious leader of Israel. He was getting old and he was almost blind.

One night the boy Samuel was sleeping in the tabernacle. (*He probably was helping Eli by making sure the candles remained lighted all night in the tabernacle, as was required.*) During the night, Samuel heard a voice calling his name:

**VOICE (GOD):** *“Samuel, Samuel!”*

**NARRATOR:** Samuel quickly went to Eli and said,

**SAMUEL:** *“Sir, did you call me? Here I am.”*

**ELI:** *“No, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.”*

**NARRATOR:** Samuel returned to his bed. For the second time the Lord called out:

**VOICE (GOD):** *“Samuel, Samuel!”*

**NARRATOR:** Once again Samuel got up and went to Eli, saying:

**SAMUEL:** *“Sir, did you call me? Here I am again.”*

**ELI:** *“Son, I did not call you. Return to your bed.”*

**NARRATOR:** Now for the third time the Lord called out:

**VOICE (GOD):** *“Samuel, Samuel!”*

**NARRATOR:** Once again Samuel got up and went to Eli, saying:

**SAMUEL:** *“Sir, did you call me? Here I am.”*

**NARRATOR:** Finally Eli understood that it was God calling Samuel. Eli said,

**ELI:** *“Samuel, it is the voice of God calling you. Return to your bed and, when the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, o God, for your servant listens.’”*

**NARRATOR:** Samuel returned to his bed. For the fourth time, God called out:

**VOICE (GOD):** *“Samuel, Samuel!”*

**NARRATOR:** This time Samuel stayed in his bed and said,

**SAMUEL:** *“Speak, God, for your servant listens.”*

**NARRATOR:** God had special plans for Samuel’s life. He became a priest and prophet of God, respected by all the people in Israel.

## PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

## **PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS**

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

## **PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

1. Who dedicated her son Samuel to God?
2. Is it important for parents to dedicate their children to God? Why?
3. How old was Samuel when he went to the tabernacle to help the priest Eli? Why did Eli need help?
4. What are some ways you can help in your church?
5. Was Samuel just a boy or an adult when God called him?
6. Does it matter how old a person is when God calls him? Why?
7. How many times did God call Samuel during the night? Was Samuel listening? What did Samuel do the first three times? What happened on the fourth call?
8. How does God talk to people today? Should we listen? Why?
9. Do you think God has a special plan for each person's life? How can you discover God's plan for your life?