

Samuel  
hears a  
voice

Bright  
Sparks

I G N I T E

DNA

# Introduction

- ▶ Some of these resources are adapted from the [energize.net.uk](http://energize.net.uk) website and are used with permission.
- ▶ In this session, we are going to be thinking about when Samuel was a boy and heard something one night.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

# NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS  
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT  
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE  
HELPED YOU?

# Game - Chinese Whispers or Whose Voice

- ▶ Two games this week to choose from.
- ▶ Chinese Whispers:
  - ▶ Sit in a circle with your family.
  - ▶ The first person whispers a short message to the person next to them, who then whispers the message (or what they think they heard!) to the next person until the message has gone round the circle.
  - ▶ The last person says the message in a loud voice, and you see if you correctly passed on the message!
- ▶ Whose Voice?:
  - ▶ One person uses their phone or computer to play a video of a famous person and everyone else has to guess who it is by only listening and not watching.

# Bible Story - Samuel hears a voice

- ▶ Can you remember what the story was about last week?
- ▶ The story last week was about Samuel being born and his mother, Hannah, taking him when he was still very young to live with Eli the priest at the house of the LORD.
- ▶ In today's story we are going to learn about something amazing that happened to Samuel when he was growing up. The story is from the book in the Bible called 1 Samuel and is from Chapter 3.
- ▶ You are going to have a go at acting out the story. You can choose exactly how you do this in your family group, but I have made a suggestion below.
- ▶ You need a narrator and two characters - Eli and Samuel. You could choose to have multiple narrators and decide if Eli and Samuel say their words, or just act it out.
- ▶ The story happens with Eli and Samuel both in their own rooms asleep at night. You could have the narrator standing on your landing and the two people playing Eli and Samuel in two different bedrooms.
- ▶ The story is on the next page.

# Bible Story - Samuel hears a voice

- ▶ In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the LORD, and visions from him were quite rare.
- ▶ One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, the LORD called Samuel.
- ▶ He answered, “Yes, sir!” and ran to Eli and said, “You called me, and here I am.”
- ▶ But Eli answered, “I didn’t call you; go back to bed.” So Samuel went back to bed.
- ▶ The LORD called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the LORD, because the LORD had never spoken to him before.
- ▶ So he got up, went to Eli, and said, “You called me, and here I am.”
- ▶ But Eli answered, “My son, I didn’t call you; go back to bed.”
- ▶ The LORD called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, “You called me, and here I am.”
- ▶ Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy, so he said to him, “Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, ‘Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.
- ▶ The LORD came and stood there, and called as he had before, “Samuel! Samuel!”
- ▶ Samuel answered, “Speak; your servant is listening.”

# Discussion - Are you a good listener?

- ▶ Who was in today's story?
  - ▶ Who did Samuel think was calling him in the night? Who was calling him?
  - ▶ Were you surprised God spoke to Samuel and not Eli? Why/why not?
  - ▶ What did Samuel say at the end of the story?
  - ▶ After Samuel said he was listening, God told him some things that would happen, and they did happen in the future. Samuel became a great prophet and God spoke to him lots of times over his life. Samuel listened to God and the people listened to the messages Samuel told them.
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- ▶ Who do you listen to?
  - ▶ Do you find it hard to listen? Do you find it hard to obey what someone tells you?
  - ▶ What makes someone a good listener? (maybe make a spider diagram of your answers)



# Prayer - Listening to God

- ▶ We often describe prayer as talking to God - but prayer is having a conversation with God and in a conversation, we talk but also listen.
- ▶ Today we're going to sit in silence and listen to anything God wants to tell us. This might be quite hard for you to do, so there are a few things you can do to help you.
  - ▶ Pick a length of time to suit your family (30 seconds, 1 minute, 10 minutes are all fine)
  - ▶ Close your eyes to block out distractions
  - ▶ Hold something in your hands (maybe a soft toy or bowl)
  - ▶ Play a quiet piece of music in the background.
  - ▶ Start by saying "Hello God, I am listening..." and end your quiet time by saying Amen.
- ▶ When you have finished, share anything you heard, thought or felt. Maybe you felt happy or calm, maybe you thought of a favourite song, Bible verse or story, maybe God said something to you. Don't worry if you didn't hear, think or feel anything - that's ok too.



# Creative time

Have a go at one or more of the activities below:



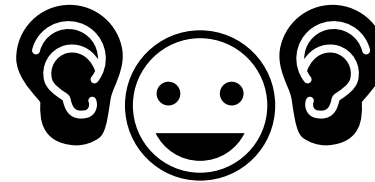
- ▶ Draw a picture of Samuel in his bed.
- ▶ Write the word “listen” in bubble writing and colour in.
- ▶ Make a Lego model of the story (or part of the story).
- ▶ Using an old shoebox/cereal box/cardboard box make Samuel’s bed. You could then use a doll/soft toy for Samuel and a small blanket/pillow case for his bedding. Have as much fun as you like with decorating it.
- ▶ Write an acrostic poem using the word “listen”.



# Memory Verse

- ▶ Draw ear outlines on card or thick paper. The ears should be really big - as big as your head.
- ▶ Write the memory verse on the ears.

*Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."  
1 Samuel 3:10*



- ▶ Hold the big ears up behind your ears and say the memory verse to each other.
- ▶ With the big ears you should hear much better than normal.

# Reflection

- ▶ What did you learn about in the story today?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ How can you be a good listener this week?

- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you, God for our time together learning about Samuel and the amazing way you spoke to him. Thank you that you still speak to us today, and help us to listen to you. Thank you for loving us and caring for us. AMEN!

## Something extra:

- ▶ Keep a prayer journal - of things you've prayed about, how God has answered your prayers, and anything God says to you. Remember God can speak to us not just in an audible voice, like to Samuel, but also through something we read, something someone else says to us, or something we see (like being delighted by God's creation when we see blossom on a tree).