

Play

Session 13

show and share

Samuel Listens

1 Samuel 3:1-18



Hannah's son, baby Samuel, grew and grew! When he became a boy, he went to live with old Eli, the priest, just like his mother had promised. Samuel helped Eli take care of the temple. One night, after a very busy day helping Eli, Samuel lay down to sleep.

But just as he fell into a deep sleep, there came a voice. "Samuel! Samuel!" it called. Samuel sat up in bed. Who could be speaking to him?

It must be Eli calling me, thought Samuel. So he jumped up and ran to Eli. "I'm here, Eli. Did you call me?"

But Eli said, "I didn't call you, Samuel. Go back to bed."

The voice called to Samuel again: "Samuel! Samuel!" Again Samuel sat up in bed. Who could be calling him? It must be Eli.

Samuel jumped up and ran back to Eli. "I'm here, Eli! You called me, right?"

Again Eli said, "I didn't call you, Samuel. Go back to bed." Samuel went back to sleep. But again, there came the voice: "Samuel! Samuel!"

You can guess what happened next. Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. And again Samuel said, "I'm here!"

This time Eli said, "I didn't call you, but I think I know who did. It was God, Samuel. Go lie down. When you hear the voice again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am listening to you.'"

"Samuel! Samuel!" called God's voice. And this time Samuel did *not* jump up! He did *not* run to Eli. He did *not* say, "I'm here, Eli!"

Samuel said, "I'm here, Lord. Speak, for I am listening to you!"

God was pleased with Samuel's answer. And God talked to Samuel that night, for God had important things to tell him. And Samuel listened.

For Families

Ask your child to tell you Samuel's story. Then talk about how God speaks to us (kids and grownups) today—in the Bible.

Paul and the Wall

Acts 9:20-25



Paul loved Jesus so much that he couldn't stop talking about him. Wherever Paul went and whatever Paul did, he talked about his friend Jesus.

Many people were happy to listen to Paul. But there were some people who did not like to hear Paul talk about Jesus. Jesus' enemies wanted Paul to stop, but, of course, Paul didn't obey them. "No, I won't stop!" Paul said. "Everyone everywhere needs to hear about Jesus."

So Jesus' enemies made a wicked plan. "We must kill Paul," they said. "That's the only way we'll get him to stop telling people about Jesus. Let's catch him when he tries to leave this city." So Paul's enemies hid beside the city gates and watched and waited for him. Sooner or later Paul would have to walk right through those gates—and they would grab him.

Paul's friends heard about the evil plan to catch Paul. They ran to tell him. "What

can we do? Who can save you, Paul?" they asked.

Jesus could! Jesus helped Paul's friends make a wonderful plan to save Paul. When most of the people in the city were sleeping, Paul's friends found a very big basket and brought it to the house where Paul was staying. "Come on, Paul," they whispered. And they took Paul and the basket to the top of the wall. "Climb in, Paul!" they whispered. They tied a rope to the basket, and slowly, carefully, they let Paul down over the wall until the basket touched the ground below.

Paul was safe! He climbed out of the basket and ran away from the city as fast as he could. Paul's enemies didn't catch him. Jesus took good care of Paul!

For Families

Ask your child to tell you the story of Paul's amazing escape in a basket. Give thanks to Jesus for the way he cares for each person in your family too—always and everywhere.