

Lesson 1:

God Speaks, We Listen

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Memory Verse: Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' –1 Samuel 3:10b

Connect:

Welcome the kids and introduce yourself to new people. Tell them that each week we want to connect with each other and with God.

Tell them something about yourself (this week you could mention about whether you have ever been on a train (or) or subway.). Give the kids a chance to tell a few people their experience with trains, or you could have them tell the class.

Pray: Holy Spirit we invite you to come and meet with us here today. Help us understand your word as we read it. Teach us Your ways, oh God, and may we honor You with all our heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Intro:

How many of you think that you are good listeners?

Let's find out if you are. We are going to go on a listening hunt for words that have the 'a' sound. (like in the word CAT). The first time you hear an 'a' word, I want you to stand; the next time you hear one I want you to sit. Continue to do this until I finish talking. Are you ready?

I once saw a CAT named JACK. JACK was very FAT. He ate many things, like chicken and turkey, but most of all he ate GRASS. The GRASS would cause JACK to HAVE a stomachache and then he would become SAD. Poor JACK. How SAD. He was a SAD, BLACK, FAT, CAT, who loved the taste of GRASS.

Today we are going to learn about a boy from the bible, who might have felt like he was playing an up and down listening game as well.

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BIBLE STUDY

Scripture Passage: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Read the scripture while filling in the setting and back story. (you may ask some of the older kids or helpers to help read certain passages)

For Example:

“The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord under Eli. “

Now, Samuel’s mom, Hannah, couldn’t have children. So she had prayed and even went to the Priest to pray that the Lord would grant her children. She said that if He did, she would give the child over to the Lord for His service. So, when Samuel was born and old enough, she took him to Eli the priest and said that He would stay there and serve the Lord. So there Samuel was, just a boy, serving in the Holy place of God under the priest, Eli.

“In those days, the word of the Lord was rare, there were not many visions.”

This is saying that even Eli was not use to a prophetic word from God, or a vision of the Lord. It was very rare and so not expected by the people.

“One night, Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that He could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.”

Eli was older and he was going blind. He was lying down in his bed, but Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord where the ark of God was. He was waiting for God. Desiring God, and not wanting to leave His presence. He was hoping something would happen, and he didn’t want to miss it.

“Then the Lord called , ”Samuel.” Samuel answered, ‘Here I am’. And he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am; you called me.’ But Eli said, ‘I did not call; go back and lie down.’ So he went and lie down. Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”

A third time the Lord called, “Samuel.” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down and if he calls you , say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

God was there the entire time calling Samuel, but it took a while for Samuel and Eli to realize it was the Lord who was speaking. Even though Samuel was waiting in the Lord’s presence for something to happen--he had never experienced the Lord for himself, so he didn’t recognize the Lord’s voice at first. And Eli, who was older and was not really expecting or waiting for something to happen, took a while to realize that this was a visitation from the Lord.

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GOING DEEPER

Was the Lord there the entire time? (*YES*)

Was He speaking to Samuel? (*YES*)

Did Samuel recognize His voice? (*NO*)

What did Eli tell Samuel to say to the Lord? (*'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'*)

This should be our response to the Lord when He speaks to us. We need to listen.

When the Lord speaks, we need to listen.

The good news is that even though Samuel missed it the first few times, God kept trying to get Samuel's attention. We miss it sometimes too. But He continues to try and get our attention. God is speaking! He has something to say to you too. The question is, are you listening?

Are you ready to say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'

ALTAR CALL:

Who wants to recognize the Lord's voice when He speaks to us? Which one of you is the next Samuel, who will answer the Lord by listening to Him?

If you truly desire God, would you wait for God in the presence of the Lord, like Samuel did? He was your age. I'm not asking the impossible from you. I'm asking you to get real with God. How bad do you want to know this all powerful---all knowing---eternal God? Will you wait and listen?

Come forward and kneel if you want this: to recognize the voice of the Lord speaking to you.

Pray: *Holy Spirit, we invite you to come. Your presence is what we desire. More of you, Lord. More of you, Jesus. We want to hear from You. We want to hear Your voice. We want to know what is on your heart and mind. We want to know what you have to say. Help us have better listening ears. Help us turn off the noise of this world and find comfort in the quiet before You. Reveal yourself to everyone here. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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Encounter Time

PRAYER: (game)

Prayer Tag---In this fun version of partner prayers, the children will get a chance to pray for multiple people in a rapid prayer style.

(This is not only a time of prayer, but is a time of equipping kids to pray for others in a low risk environment; all while having fun doing it)

Explain to the children that we are going to play prayer tag. Everyone will get a prayer card, But only one of those cards will be the 'IT'. (symbolized by the yellow card.) When we start, find one person to pray for. After you are done praying the prayer on the card, you will switch cards with the person you just prayed for. Every 30 seconds the leader will say SWITCH. Then you will take your new card to the next person and begin to pray over them, (switch your cards and get ready to change prayer partners). Do this a few times, before stopping the game. At the end of the game have the person who was 'IT' come to the front with their card. See if they will pray it over the class (on the microphone if available). If not ask if anyone else will.

Continue to remind the children during this activity to agree with the words they are saying. Don't just say it, PRAY IT!

(for younger children who are not able to read or read well, we send either an older student, helper or teacher with them when they pray for others to help them know what to say.)

PRAISE:

Sometimes we sing praise songs to God in church or elsewhere, but we don't really listen to the words and what they mean.

Today we are going to take one passage of a song. LISTEN to the words---to understand what it's really saying. ***Then we are going to try singing that part of the song.*** (you can pick a popular chorus or hymn that your church is familiar with or you may choose to use this one)

Here is an example of how to do this: (after you do this with the chorus, then have the kids sing it with meaning)

Indescribable, Uncontainable, You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name, You are amazing God.

STOP and think about that for a moment:

Indescribable: There are no words to truly describe You God---that's how magnificent You are. You are beyond our human descriptions.

Uncontainable: Nothing can contain You or hold You. You are so big/vast that there is nothing bigger/or vast enough to contain You. You are so powerful that nothing can hold You.

You placed the stars in the sky -----He did it! He put every star there and knows them all. (we can't even count them all, let alone name them all)

You are amazing God! -Say it with me: 'You are amazing God' He truly is---there is none like Him.

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Encounter Time

PROPHECY: Learning to Listen

Beforehand, put a small object in a brown paper bag. Do not show anyone what it is. (It can be an animal, shape, etc.)

Tell the kids that we are going to play a game that is meant to help you discern the voice of the Lord. I have hidden an object in this bag, and we are going to ask Jesus to help us figure out what the object is, so we can practice discerning his voice.

Explain that sometimes he speaks through pictures, or gives you a strong impression about something, sometimes a small voice in your head, etc.

Have the kids pray and focus on Jesus. Pray that every other voice would be silent, and they would only hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and show them what is in the bag.

Wait on the Lord. After a minute ask the kids if they saw anything that might be a clue. Write all the clues down on the board.

After everyone has a chance to go, circle the clues that match up with the object. Then reveal the object to them.

Encourage the kids that even if they didn't get it right, this is practice to learn how He speaks to us. When we learn how he speaks to us, we can better listen to Him. Even Samuel needed to learn what His voice sounded like.

POWER:

We are going to pray for healing today. If you know anyone that needs healing in their bodies, raise your hand. It could be for yourself, a family member, a friend, or someone at school. Give a simple example of how to pray for healing for someone.

Example:

- 1) ask the person what they need prayer for.
- 2) Ask the healing power of the Holy Spirit to come
- 3) Command the sickness to go, or the injured area to heal in the name of Jesus
- 4) See if the person notices any difference in their body. (pray again if necessary)

Once you have demonstrated this, have the kids pray over someone who needs prayer. Tell them to pray out loud with authority. Don't be intimidated by the sickness. Jesus isn't!

Let kids share if they have any testimonies of full or partial healing. Praise God!

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| <p>Jesus, help <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i> to not be afraid anymore. Give them boldness by Your Holy Spirit.</p> | <p>Be with <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i> in the night. Let them feel that you are with them and they are never alone.</p> |
| <p>Holy Spirit Come and Fill... <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i></p> | <p>Reveal your love to the students and teachers at <i>(fill in the blank with <u>school's name the person attends</u>)</i></p> |
| <p>Holy Spirit come and bring comfort to... <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i></p> | <p>Bring a Holy Desire to Obey You to... <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i>'s heart.</p> |
| <p>Jesus, reveal Your love to ... <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i></p> | <p>Help, <i>(fill in the blank with <u>person's name you are praying for</u>)</i>, to understand your Word better.</p> |

Prayer Cards:
these are to be used with the
Prayer Encounter Time

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TIME WITH GOD

Use this as a 5-minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

DAY 1: Read- Rev. 3:20 “*Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*”

-Who is saying this? It’s Jesus! Imagine Him standing at the door to your heart, calling your name, and knocking. Will you open the door to let Him into your life? Do you hear Him calling your name? Take a moment to be quiet and listen. What is He saying to you?

Prayer: Lord, I want you to come into my life. I open the door for you. Help me be like Samuel and hear your voice, listen, and obey! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 2: Read: Proverbs 19:20 “*Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*”

-Sometimes it is hard to listen and obey your parents, teachers, and leaders. But in this verse, we see that the Lord wants us to listen to advice and accept instruction. To listen is to hear it, and to accept advice and teaching is to be obedient and humble.

-What does God say you will gain by doing this? Wisdom in the future. So, if you want to be wise as you grow, listen to your parents, accept correction and teaching on things. You will benefit from it.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for not always obeying or having a good attitude when being taught or given advice by others. Help me to be teachable and humble. Grant me wisdom by your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

DAY 3: Read- Proverbs 18:13 “*If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.*”

-Have you ever been in class and the teacher doesn’t even finish the question before someone yells out an answer, only to find out that wasn’t the question the teacher was going to ask? How foolish that person feels. This is what the verse is talking about. Listen!!! Be a GOOD listener. You are rewarded for your patience and humble spirit.

Prayer- Help me to be a good listener; to be patient and respectful. Not assuming I know the answer; before the problem is stated. Give me wisdom by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY 4: Read- Luke 11:28 *But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”*

-How many times have you sat through Sunday School and heard the Bible lesson, but by Monday morning you forgot what it was about?

Many times this happens because we simply weren’t listening, but other times this happens when we are listening. The Truth in God’s word can change our life only if we allow it to. Did you learn about praying for your enemy and then talk on the phone about someone you don’t like? When we **keep** the word of God---we **apply** it to our life.

Prayer: Lord, I ask forgiveness for the times I have not applied your word to my life. Help me to be like you. Write the Word of God on my heart. Help me to keep your word and learn from it. Let your word change me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

TIME WITH GOD (continued) LESSON 1

DAY 5: Psalm 85:8 *“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.”*

-Once again, we hear this message: hear from the Lord, listen and apply his word, and you will not be foolish. In this verse they are saying that if you listen to God’s word and obey it, you will not go back to your foolish ways.

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for your word. You have given us a gift to keep us from following our foolish ways and desires. Help me to listen to your words and make them a part of my life. Thank You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

NOTES:

MEMORY VERSE:

Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’

1 Samuel 3:10b