

A LIVING FAITH CLASSROOM LESSON about The Lord Speaks to Samuel

VIRTUE: What is your Calling or Special Gift from God?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

LESSON & ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- A gift-wrapped box or gift bag
- Paper (*a ½ sheet of paper will work well*)
- Ribbon
- Gift tags (*or small pieces of paper to attach as a tag*)



EXPLAIN: Every time that you say ‘And Samuel said’ have the kids respond with ‘Here I am, Lord Lord.’

READ: Samuel was the son of Hannah. Hannah wanted a baby boy very much and when God gave her Samuel she made sure that he was raised in the church. One day Samuel heard a voice in the temple. At first he thought it was the priest, Eli, but then he found out that it was God speaking to him!

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. **And Samuel said: “Here I am, Lord!”** he said to Eli.

“I didn’t call you,” Eli answered, “go back to bed.” So Samuel went back to bed.

Again the LORD called, “Samuel!” Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. **And Samuel said: “Here I am, Lord!”**

“I didn’t call you, go back to bed,” Eli answered a second time.

A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. **And Samuel said: “Here I am, Lord!”**

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, ‘Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.’”

Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, again he heard the voice of God calling, “Samuel! Samuel!” This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

God spoke to Samuel and told him many things that would happen soon.

God spoke to Samuel and was able to use him even though he was young. We need to listen for God just like Samuel did.

SAY: The story tells how Samuel received a “CALLING” from God. God created Samuel just like He created you and me! God tells us in His Word that He knit us together while we were inside our mother’s wombs. He knows every little detail about us. He knows how many hairs we have on our heads. He knows what we like and what we don’t like. He made each of unique and there is no one created exactly like us in the whole world.

We live in a world that sometimes makes us think that we aren’t special because we are not popular, pretty, athletic, or as smart as others. Our value to God isn’t based on any of those things. He loves us because He created us and placed us in this world for a purpose. His purpose for placing each one of us on this earth is to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. We glorify God when we live a life that pleases Him and points others to Him. When we live that kind of life we will enjoy God and all the blessings that come from Him.

Because God’s purpose is for each of us to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever, He has given us gifts or talents that we can use to help others see that God exists and wants them to be a part of His family too. This is called our “CALLING!”

Sometimes we know clearly what our gifts/talents are and how God wants to use us in this life. Other times we may not know what our gift and purpose is in this life.

(Place your gift-wrapped box or gift bag out and set so students may all see.)

Our lives are like this unopened present. We have received a present but we don’t know exactly what is inside until we take the wrapping paper off the present. As each of us walk with God by faith day by day, obeying His Word He begins to prepare us for what is inside that present. In God’s perfect time He allows the wrapping on the gift we have to come off and He allows us to see what the talent/ability for serving Him will be. Whether we know what gift God has given us or not, we are to live a faithful and obedient life that pleases God. Because even though we might not feel like we have a purpose and are not useful to God, He sees all that is going on around us. He knows how your life will affect the people around you.

ACTIVITY: “What is your SPECIAL GIFT/CALLING from God?”

1. On a piece of paper, have each student write down their “Calling” or “Special Gift” from God. *(Depending on age group, you may have students add additional information, draw a picture, etc.)*
2. Roll up the paper and tie with a ribbon.
3. Attach a “gift tag” to the ribbon that reads, “To: ME Love: GOD”