



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...**

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Speaks

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Samuel 3

**WORD OF WONDER:** James 4:8a

The average person hears 25,000 words per day. With so much going on in the world, it can be hard to hear what truly matters. Samuel heard God's call and responded with these words: "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10 NIV).

Those are very powerful words as we reflect on the work we get to do. When we hear God and respond in a humble manner, we create the opportunity for wonderful things to happen.

Remove all distractions and ask God to speak; let Him know that His servant is listening. When you think about distractions, what comes to mind? What do you need to hand over to God so that you can be fully present for His work? Make a list of those things and begin praying that the distractions would be removed.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–20. Great things are about to happen. Now the question is, "Do you believe it?" Read the verses again. Ask God to help you hear His voice and be fully present as you serve kids and families.

Say this with me: *Your servant is listening because I know You are speaking.*

—**Andrae Jones**

Nextgen Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### GOD CALLS OUT TO SAMUEL

#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

##### WHO?

At this point, Samuel was a boy, probably about 12 years old, who lived in the tabernacle with Eli the priest. Eli's sons had disobeyed God, and Eli had a special relationship with Samuel, loving him as a son. This relationship would be key as God speaks to Samuel.

##### WHAT?

This moment of awakening Samuel as a prophet was significant in the future of Israel. As Samuel grew, the Bible says God was with him and fulfilled all that Samuel prophesied. Every word Samuel spoke was from God.

##### WHERE?

Samuel was sleeping in the tabernacle, which is where the ark of the covenant was kept. The ark represented God's presence among His people. While Samuel wouldn't have been sleeping near the ark, merely being in this special place invited the presence of God.

##### WHEN?

This passage takes place during the time when judges led Israel. The Bible tells us that at this time, "The word of the Lord was rare" (1 Samuel 3:1 NIV). With God's people desperate for a word from Him, this moment established Samuel as a prophet who spoke for Him.

##### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Samuel became the last of Israel's judges. When the people asked for a king, God called on Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. When Saul disobeyed God, God called Samuel to anoint a new king—David. Hundreds of years later, Jesus, the eternal King, was born from David's line.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Day or Night?

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Day or Night Sheets

Ahead of time, print a set of the Day or Night Sheets. Cut the pictures apart.

God's big story today takes place at nighttime when a boy named Samuel was going to bed. I'm going to hold up pictures, and you tell me if you think the thing in the picture happens or appears in the daytime or the nighttime. If it happens in the day, get up! If it happens at night, lie down as if you are in bed.

Hold up the pictures and ask the kids what each picture depicts, and whether it's used during the daytime or nighttime. For young toddlers, your questions can be more specific. For example, you could ask if they see the moon when it is dark outside or if they wear their pajamas to bed or to play outside.

The kids will see ...

- Moon
- Sun
- Pajamas and slippers
- Clothes and shoes
- Stuffed animal and blanket
- Toys
- Playground
- Lunch and lunchbox



You did a great job of figuring out whether things are for the day or the night! Today we're going to hear about a boy who was going to bed at night and kept hearing someone call his name. Do people normally hear their name being called out at night? Not usually. But someone did in today's story. Our Wonder Truth helps us know who might have been calling his name.

Who do you think was calling the boy's name? Allow the kids to respond.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SPEAKS**.



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## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us hear Your voice. Help us to know and follow Your voice. We love you! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

Ask: Why is the Bible special? ***Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.***

**Tell the Bible Story**

The Beginner's Bible, pages 160-163

A Voice in the Night

### Word of Wonder

#### **WORD OF WONDER**

**Come near to God, and he will come near to you.**

—James 4:8a



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## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Listen For Your Name

Today we learned about when God spoke to Samuel. Samuel listened and heard his name being called. God speaks to us too. Let's play a game to listen for our names.

Gather the kids together and call out each kid's name one at a time. When they hear their name, they can do a silly action (such as a silly face or dance or just clap their hands). Start by calling the names with a regular voice, then do it in a whisper. Then call the names in a funny voice.

For older kids, let them take turns calling out one another's names.

**We can remember that God speaks to us! He might speak through the Bible or through His creation in nature. He might speak through prayer or worship, or through a parent or church leader. We can listen for God!**

### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for speaking to us.

**God, help us have ears that listen for You and hear Your voice this week. We thank You that You care about us and speak to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May you draw near to the God who loves you every day of your life. May He speak to you, and may you listen to His voice.