

Lesson B2.1 - God Calls Us



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

► Bible Characters: Eli, Young Samuel, God

Samuel was just a boy when God called him to serve as a messenger and prophet. He lived and worked in the Temple, where the old priest, Eli, served. When God spoke to Samuel one night, it took both Samuel and Eli some time to figure out what was happening.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Transition

Israel's path to becoming a united monarchy was not an easy one. Samuel was raised up by God at the end of the period of the Judges and became the first of the prophets to serve as God's advisor to the first king, Saul. David would be the next king.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune "A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea." Feel free to clap along!

**God welcomes you today, day, day
to listen, learn and play, play, play.**

**So hear me when I say, say, say
it's time to start! Let's pray, pray, pray:**

All lift hands and say: **Please bless us, Lord. Amen!**

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

When your parent or teacher calls you, what do you do? (*You listen!*) But did you ever think that God might want us to listen to him, too? It's true. **God calls us**, often through his Word. When we listen, our hearts are moved to do good things.

When **God calls us**, what might he ask us to do? (*To tell others about him, to use our gifts and talents to help people, to pray, etc.*)

Do you have to be a certain age to be called to serve God? (*Choose volunteers to answer.*)

In today's story, we hear about a boy named Samuel. God called him to do an important job even though he was still quite young. Whether we are young or old, **God calls us**.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Long ago, there was a boy named Samuel. He served God by helping Eli, the priest, at the Temple (which was like a big church). He even lived there!

Read the caption: One night, young Samuel was asleep in the Temple. Then, he heard a voice call his name. Who could it be? he wondered.

- *Look at Samuel's face. What might he be wondering? [Did I just dream that?]*
- *Who do you think was calling him? [Call on volunteers to guess. Answer: God]*

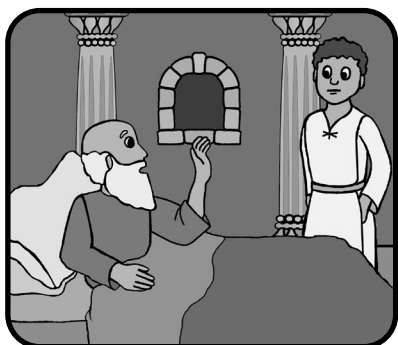


Picture 2

Tell the children: Samuel thought it must have been Eli who had called him. Maybe Eli was sick or needed something.

Read the caption: Samuel ran to Eli's room. "Here I am!" he said. "Did you call me?" "No," Eli said. "Go back to bed." So Samuel did.

- *What is Samuel doing? [He's explaining what happened and looks very awake.]*
- *Look at Eli's face. What might he be feeling? [Eli looks tired and unsure.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Samuel laid back down on his mat. But just as he was falling asleep, he heard the voice once more. He ran to Eli's room again and said, "Did you call me?"

Read the caption: After the third time, Eli said, "Hmm. It might be God calling you. If you hear it again, say, 'I'm listening, Lord.'"

- *Why do you think old Eli changed his answer to Samuel? [Eli was a servant of God. After this happened a third time, he wondered if God was calling Samuel.]*
- *Look at Samuel now. What might he be wondering? [Why would God call me?]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Samuel wasn't used to hearing God's voice, which is why he didn't recognize it earlier. But he trusted Eli. So he went back to his room and waited.

Read the caption: Sure enough, the voice called again. This time, Samuel knew it was God. He listened carefully. Then he shared God's message.

- *What's different about Samuel's room now? [Light is streaming into it.]*
- *Where might that light be coming from? [From God as he speaks to Samuel.]*
- *What is Samuel doing differently in this picture? [He's not running to Eli. Samuel is staying where he is, listening carefully to what God is saying to him.]*

Remember today's message: **God calls us!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*When Samuel was a little boy,
he served the Lord in fear and joy.
One night God called out his name,
so to Eli Samuel came.*

*“Here I am; you wanted me?”
But Eli said, “Go back to sleep.”
God called out to him three times.
Then it came to Eli’s mind:*

*“It is God who’s calling you;
you must ask him what to do.”
When at last God spoke again,
Samuel said, “I’m listening!”*

g. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Game: Who Woke Me?**Materials:**

- None

Instructions:

This game is played like the classic classroom game “Heads Up, Seven Up,” but with a twist. Choose two students to be “wakers.” They will stand at the front of the classroom with you. Invite everyone else to sit at their desks (or around a table, or in a circle on the floor) with their heads down, resting on their hands. These kids should also close their eyes like they are sleeping.

You and the two “wakers” will quietly walk around the group. Each of the wakers will tap one person on the head. When someone is tapped, that person will put up their thumb. After this, you and the two wakers will walk to the front of the classroom and stand together.

When you say, “Wake up, wake up,” the kids are to open their eyes and raise their heads. Invite the tapped kids to guess who woke them. If they are correct, they can be a “waker” in the next round. If incorrect, the same kids remain in their roles for another round. (Be sure that different kids get tapped in each round.)

**h. Song (optional)**

This children’s song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

This Little Light of Mine

Verse 1: Hold pointer finger up like a candle

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat 3 times)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Verse 2: “Blow” on candle on the word “blow”

Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat 3 times)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Verse 3: Wave “candle” all around

Shine all over the world, I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat 3 times)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (Repeat)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: Samuel was sleeping in the Temple when he heard a voice call his name. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God, we thank you for this day,

And as we go along our way,

We ask your blessing, and your care,

On friends and family everywhere.

Please bless our church, and teachers too,

And help us always follow you. Amen.