

CITY SG – October 3rd-4th, 2026

Bible Story: The Lord Calls Out to Samuel • 1 Samuel 3

Bottom Line: I can ask God to speak to me.

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice.; I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIV

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Music from your phone

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Once most kids arrive, say: "We're going to play a game called Freeze & Listen! You'll need to listen very carefully."
- Explain the rules:
 - When the music plays, you may walk, dance, or move around the room.
 - When the music stops, you must FREEZE immediately.
 - Only the kids who are completely frozen and quiet may follow the whispered instructions.
- Start with a practice round.
- Play music for fifteen to twenty seconds.
- Stop the music suddenly and whisper: "If you can hear me, touch your nose."
- Play several more rounds using different instructions such as:
 - "Clap once."
 - "Sit down slowly."
 - "Give a thumbs up."
 - "Whisper, 'God speaks.'"
 - "Close your eyes."
- Each round, whisper a little more softly so kids must listen more carefully.
- After several rounds, gather the kids together.

Say: "Wow! That was fun! It was a lot easier to hear when everyone stopped moving and got quiet, right? When there was noise and movement, it was much harder to listen carefully. Sometimes our lives feel just like that. There's noise all around us: people talking, distractions, games, school, and even our own thoughts. It can make it hard to really listen. The Bible teaches that God speaks to us. That's amazing! But just like in our game, we sometimes have to slow down, stop, and listen carefully so we don't miss what He's saying."

"Today we're going to hear about a boy named Samuel. At first, he didn't realize it was God speaking to him. But he learned to listen."

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Who's Calling?

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Blindfold

What You Do:

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Say: "We're going to play a game called 'Who's Calling?' You'll need to be listening carefully for this one!"
- Explain the rules:
 - The leader will choose one kid to be "Samuel."
 - The leader will then quietly point to one kid in the circle.
 - That kid will say, "Samuel!" using a normal speaking voice.
 - The kid in the middle must guess who called their name.
- Choose one kid to be "Samuel."
- Invite "Samuel" to sit in the middle of the circle.
- Gently cover their eyes with a blindfold or have them close their eyes.
- Demonstrate a round if needed.
- Begin playing:
 - Quietly point to a kid.
 - Cue them to say, "Samuel!"
 - Let the kid in the middle guess.
- After each guess:
 - Reveal who spoke.
 - Celebrate effort ("Good listening!").
- Rotate a new kid into the middle after every round so multiple kids get a turn.

Say: "Samuel asked God to speak – and God did. Just like in our game, recognizing a voice takes practice. The more you listen, the more familiar it becomes. And the same is true with God. The more we spend time with Him – praying, listening, and learning what the Bible says – the more we begin to recognize His voice. So when you're not sure what to do, you can do what Samuel did. You can pause and say, 'Speak, Lord. I'm listening.' Remember our **I can ask God to speak to me**. And when we ask, we can trust that He hears us and wants to speak to us."

2. Keys to Listening

Application Activity

What You Need: Keys to Listening" Activity Page (one per small group)

What You Do:

- Spread the keys out where everyone can see them.
- Say: "Each of these keys has something true from the Bible. These are like 'keys' that help us listen to God."
- Explain the activity:
 - You will read a scenario.
 - Kids will work together to choose a key (Scripture) that could help in that situation.

- Before the first scenario, read out the verses on the keys.
- Scenario 1:
 - “You feel nervous about something new, like a test or trying a new activity.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5.
 - “Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid... the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9.
 - Say: “When you feel nervous, God wants to remind you that you can trust Him. He is with you wherever you go, so you don’t have to face it alone.”
- Scenario 2:
 - “You don’t know what the right choice is.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way.” Psalm 119:105.
 - “If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God.” James 1:5.
 - Say: “When you’re unsure what to do, God’s Word helps guide you! You can also ask God for wisdom, and He will help you know the right choice.”
- Scenario 3:
 - “Someone is being unkind to you at school.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Be kind and tender to one another.” Ephesians 4:32.
 - “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31.
 - Say: “Even when someone is unkind, God can help you choose kindness. Listening to Him helps you respond in a way that shows His love.”
- Scenario 4:
 - “You’re trying to listen to God, but it’s hard to be quiet and pay attention.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10.
 - “Speak, Lord. I’m listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10.
 - Say: “Sometimes we need to slow down and be still so we can listen. You can ask God to help you focus and remind your heart to listen.”
- Scenario 5:
 - “You see someone who needs help.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Love one another.” John 13:34.
 - “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31.
 - Say: “When you feel like you should help someone, that’s something God often leads you to do! It matches what the Bible teaches about loving others.”

Say: “Each of those keys reminds us of something about God and how He speaks to us. God doesn’t want hearing Him to be tricky or hard. He wants to guide you. He speaks in ways that help you know what is true – like through the Bible, a quiet thought, or a reminder to do what is right.”

3. Blindfold Mix & Match

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Blindfold Mix & Match” Activity Page (one set per small group), Blindfold

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*” • John 10:27
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Place the Memory Verse strips in the middle of the group.
- Say: “The words of our Memory Verse are all mixed up again! But this time, we are going to add another layer to make it a bit more challenging!”
- Choose one kid to be the “listener.”
- Have that kid wear a blindfold or close their eyes.
- Explain the rules:
 - The group will help guide the blindfolded kid.
 - Kids can give simple directions like: “Move left,” “Pick that one up,” or “That comes first.”
 - The blindfolded kid will pick up and place the pieces in order based on what they hear.
- Begin the activity:
 - Guide the kid to pick up one piece at a time.
 - Let the group help direct where it should go.
 - Prompt as needed:
 - “What sounds like the beginning?”
 - “What comes after ‘My sheep’?”
 - “Where should that piece go?”
- Continue until the verse is in the correct order.
- Once complete:
 - Remove the blindfold.
 - Read the verse together as a group one to two times.
- Rotate in a new kid if time allows.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)”
- “God, thank You that You are always with us. We ask today that You speak to us and that we will obey You when You do. Thank you that You want to include us in Your work and that You have a special plan for us. Help us to always seek you. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, remind the kids that they can ask God to speak to them – and take a moment to listen this week!