

# Samuel Listens and Obeys

Lesson 7

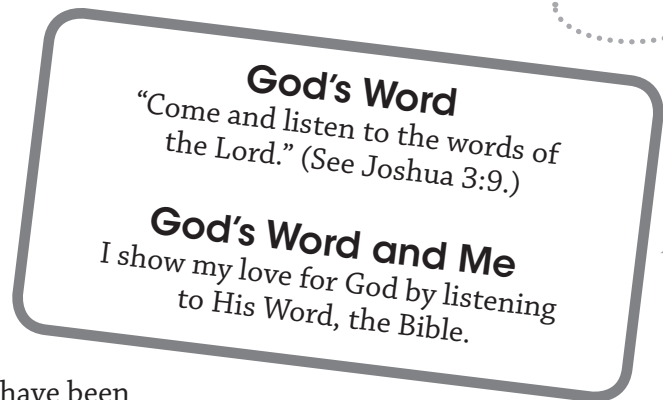
**Bible Story**  
1 Samuel 3

## Teacher Challenge

At times, we aren't sure whether God is directing us to do something. Are we "hearing" correctly? Samuel went through a similar process of learning to hear God's voice. It even took Eli three times to figure out that the voice Samuel had heard might have been God speaking! But when Samuel stopped to be available to listen, God told him amazing things that changed his life as he obeyed what God had told him!

- ➔ What are ways you listen for God's promptings? What confirms to you that He is speaking?
- ➔ What change can you make in your life this week to spend more time with God?

Ask God to help you be aware of the nudges of His Spirit as you prepare your lesson. Take time this week to be alone with Him. Invite Him to speak through His Word and prayer. And then ask Him to make you ready for the unexpected ways in which He will use you to teach His love to children!



## Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 7

## Active Game Center: Eli Says

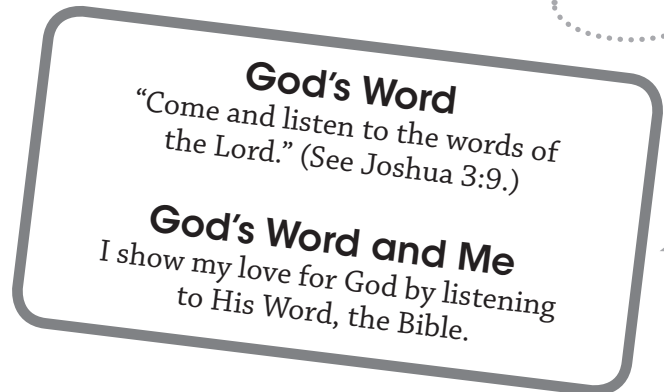
**Collect**  
Bible.

### Do

1. Lead children to play Simon Says, using the name “Eli” instead of “Simon.” **Eli says, “Put your hands on your head.”** Children follow your directions.
2. Continue activity with other directions, occasionally omitting the words “Eli says.” Even if a child still follows your direction, he or she continues playing the game.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, Samuel listened carefully to Eli. The Bible tells us, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” Let’s play a game where we have to listen carefully.**
- ➔ **When someone tells us a Bible story, we are listening to God’s Word. When are times people tell Bible stories to you?**
- ➔ **One thing God’s Word tells us to do is to be kind to others. What can you do to be kind when you are at church? (Share crayons. Help pick up toys.)**
- ➔ **Andrew and Michael, you are listening to my instructions. You can listen to God’s Word, too!**



### For Younger Children

Give children directions using “Eli says” each time.

### For Older Children

Children take turns being the leader.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 7

## Art Center: Listen and Do

### Collect

Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, masking tape, markers.

### Prepare

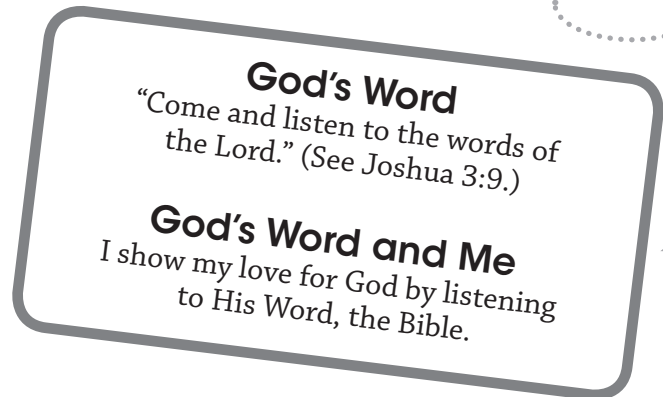
Tape the butcher paper to a table.

### Do

1. Children stand or sit around table and decorate paper following your instructions to do any of the following: draw circles, squares, dots, big swirls, etc.
2. Occasionally call out "Freeze!" Children stop drawing and exchange marker with a neighbor before continuing to draw.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Today's Bible story is about a boy named Samuel. Samuel listened to God's Word. We can listen, too. Listen carefully to hear how we are going to decorate this paper.**
- ➔ **Anthony and Olivia, you are listening carefully to me. You can listen to God's Word, too!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Come and listen to the words of the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. Samuel listened to God's words. When are some times you can listen to God's words in the Bible?**  
(When I hear a Bible story.)



### For Younger Children

Give only one or two instructions for children to follow.

### For Older Children

Allow volunteers to suggest decorating ideas.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 7

## Block Center: Bed of Blocks

### Collect

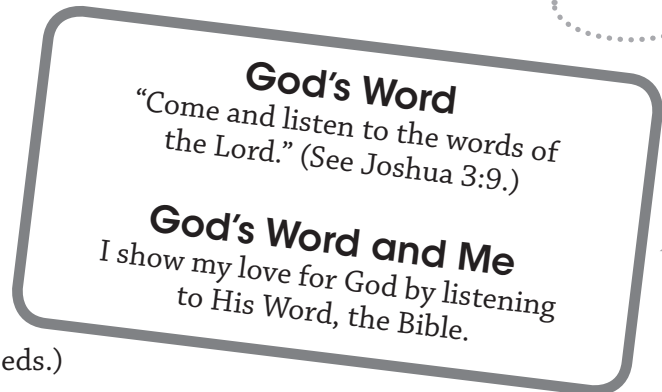
Bible, blocks; optional—fabric pieces or blankets.

### Do

1. Children arrange blocks to outline a bed large enough to lie down in. (Optional: Children use fabric pieces or blankets to finish making their beds.)
2. Children lie down in their block beds and pretend to sleep. Call each child by name. Named child responds by sitting up and saying “I am listening!” and then joins teacher. Repeat, calling other children by name.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Samuel woke up several times when he heard someone calling his name. Let’s pretend we’re Samuel and get up when our names are called.**
- ➔ **When Samuel heard his name called, he thought Eli was calling him. But Eli told him it was the Lord. Samuel listened to the Lord.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” We can listen to God’s Word, the Bible. Who reads Bible stories to you? Who tells you Bible verses?**
- ➔ **Let’s find out if Ava knows how to listen. Ava, bring me a long block. Good for you! You know how to listen and obey!**



### For Younger Children

Use masking tape to outline a large bed on floor. Children place blocks on outline and use as one big bed. When called by name, children simply get up and join you. (Note: Remove tape after use.)

### For Older Children

Children take turns acting out the roles of Samuel and Eli as you retell story events. Be prepared to repeat story several times during the Block Center.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 7

## Science Center: Listen to the Sounds

### Collect

Bible; two each of a variety of small items (gravel, marbles, rice, cotton balls, pasta, paper clips, buttons, jingle bells, coins, etc.); several clean, small dairy-product containers and lids; masking tape.

### Prepare

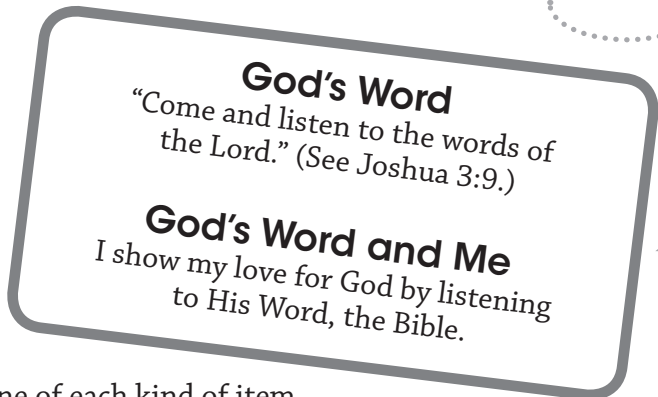
Place one kind of item in each container, reserving one of each kind of item. Place lids on containers and tape securely.

### Do

1. Children take turns shaking containers one at a time and guessing what item might be in each container.
2. Show items you reserved. Children shake containers again, trying to identify which container holds each item shown.
3. After children have guessed the contents of each container, open container to reveal item. Replace lid and secure tape on each container before repeating activity.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Come and listen to the words of the Lord.” We can listen to the words of the Lord when we hear stories and verses from the Bible, God’s Word. “Lord” is another name for God. Let’s practice listening to some different kinds of sounds.**
- ➔ **I love the sound of rain on the roof. What are some of your favorite sounds? God made our ears. We can show our love for Him by listening to His Word, the Bible.**
- ➔ **I can make sounds with my hands by clapping them. What are some sounds you can make with your hands? With your feet? With your mouth?**



### For Younger Children

Children shake containers freely instead of waiting for turns. After several minutes, lead children in guessing what might be in each container.

### For Older Children

Lead children in comparing the different sounds and classifying them: loudest, softest, most pleasant, least pleasant, etc.

# Listen to Learn

1 Samuel 3

Lesson 7

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 12 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1 CD* and player.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle, feet stretched toward the center. **Listen carefully to hear who I'm talking about. I see five children who are all wearing tennis shoes.** Children try to identify the five children. Continue game, varying the number and type of item that is the same (clothing colors, clothing types, hair bows, etc.).

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 3. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 12 pictures.

**What sounds do you hear at night when you are in your bed? Today we're going to hear about a boy who heard something very unusual when he was in his bed.**



Samuel **yawned** a big yawn and stretched his arms. It was bedtime and Samuel felt very sleepy. After he got himself ready for bed, he lay down and closed his eyes. Then something strange happened! Just as Samuel was going to sleep, he heard someone call, "Samuel! Samuel!"



Samuel sat straight up in his bed! "Eli must be calling me," he said. Samuel jumped out of his bed. He **ran** to where Eli slept. "Here I am. You called me?" Samuel asked.

Eli looked surprised. "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to bed, Samuel." Samuel went to his bed and lay down.



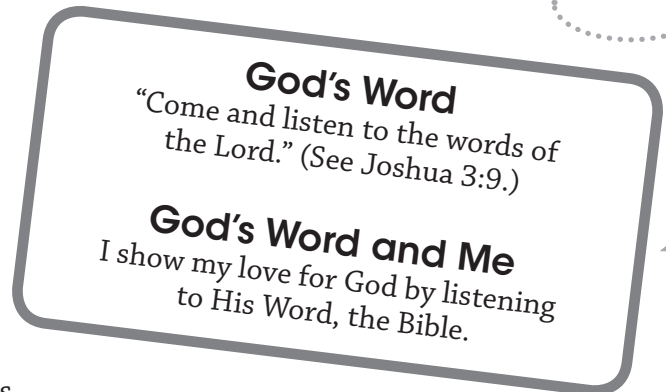
Everything was quiet again. "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel heard the voice again. Samuel ran to Eli. "Here I am. You called me?" Samuel asked. "**No**," Eli said. "I did not call you. Now go back to bed." So Samuel went back to his bed and lay down.

A third time Samuel heard the voice. "Samuel! Samuel!" And once again he ran to Eli. "Here I am. You called me?" Samuel asked. Then Eli knew God was calling Samuel.

"When you hear the voice again," Eli told Samuel, "say 'Speak to me, God. I am listening.'" Samuel went back to his bed and lay down.



Soon Samuel **heard** the voice again, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak to me, God. I am listening." Then something wonderful happened. God spoke to Samuel. God told Samuel how to obey Him. And Samuel listened carefully to all God told him. Samuel was glad to listen to God. Samuel obeyed God.





## Talk About the Story

**What woke Samuel up in the middle of the night?** (A voice calling his name.) **Samuel showed his love for God by listening to Him. We can show our love for God by listening to His Word, the Bible. When do you hear stories from God's Word?**

**Option:** Provide one or two rhythm instruments for children to use while singing "A Little Bit More." If you completed the Science Center Option, use the containers as rhythm instruments. Children exchange instruments each time the song is sung.

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about growing up.** Lead children in singing "A Little Bit More" (track 3 on CD). **What does the song tell us we hear?** (God's Word.)

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Joshua 3:9, say verse aloud. **What does the Bible tell us to listen to?** (The words of the Lord.) **"Lord" is another name for God.** Show children the following motions to use when saying the verse: use hand to beckon when you say the word "come," cup your hand to your ear when you say the word "listen," point up when you say "the Lord." Lead children in saying the verse and doing the motions several times.

**Option:** During the verse activity, invite individuals or pairs to do the motions while you and other children say the verse.

## Pray to God

**We can thank God for His Word, the Bible.** Invite volunteers to each say this brief thank-you prayer: **Thank You, God, for the Bible.**

## Praise to God

Lead children in doing the motions suggested in this finger play:

**Listen, listen. We'll play a game.**

**When I snap my fingers, call out your name.**

**Listen, listen. Put your hands up on your head.**

**Now with one hand, point to something red.**

**Listen, listen. Put one hand on your shoe.**

**Now with the other hand, point to something blue.**

**Listen, listen. Put your hands behind your back.**

**Now with both your hands, point to something black.**

Say, **It's fun to listen to these words so we can do what they say. We can listen to God's Word, the Bible. Those words help us know what to do, too!**

# Talk to Learn

Lesson 7

## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 12 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers, tape; optional—glue, fabric squares, craft sticks.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric squares to clothes on page. Children glue a craft stick to bottom of each puppet.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 13 and 14 (p. 33 and p. 35 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 7 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

