



God Speaks to Us – Samuel’s Obedience to God

1 Samuel 1-3; 8-10

God Statement: God is Our Leader

KEY VERSE: “Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go..”
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Our Leader

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Leader.

SAY:

Raise your hand if you ever have a hard time listening. Listening to your teacher, to your parent, to your brother or sister, to the radio, to the tv? Today, we’re going to hear a story from the Bible of a young kid, just like you all, who listened to God. Let’s take a moment to see if we can be good listeners. Everyone close your eyes, and let’s listen to what’s around us for a moment. *After a few moments, have the kids share what they heard (i.e. kids in another class, doors closing, music playing, air conditioning going, etc.)*

Great work listening! Let's do an activity as we continue to learn about how God leads us.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Sound Charades

Supplies: bag with cards

Say: *Today we are going to learn about listening! Let's use our ears to listen to different sounds we make. I wonder if you can guess them all with me.*

Directions: Have children sit on the floor. Pick one child to come up to the front and pick a card from the bag. Have them make the sound for what is on the card. Children can guess what object, animal, or sound they hear. The child that guesses correctly can go next. Encourage the children to listen carefully.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Books of the Bible Song

Our current Bible Challenge is for kids to memorize the Books of the Old Testament right now. Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a “Bible Challenge” card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

As kids begin to learn the song, invite kids up to come show what they know during Large Group.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide. Invite the worship leader up to lead the group in worship.******

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)**

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.******

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

****** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.******

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: God Speaks to Us – Samuel’s Obedience to God

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: *small group leader handouts*

Prepare ahead: *let leaders know they will be leading the small group portion of this worship response.*

Samuel was a kid just like you. Well, not JUST like you. Your mom didn't leave you at church to serve God for the rest of your life. But Samuel was a kid who wanted to serve God. I think he did things like clean up after the animals, kept all the dishes clean and did what Eli told him to do.

God had a special message for Samuel. And instead of writing in the Bible for him or telling an adult to tell him, God spoke right to Samuel! Samuel didn't even know it was God at first.

We've been practicing listening to God.

- Do you recognize God's voice when He speaks to you?
- We don't usually hear God's voice out loud like Samuel did but we can hear God's still small voice, usually we hear it in our hearts or brains or in an idea that could only be from God.

Break into small groups and talk about these questions with the kids. Encourage your group to sit in a circle and away from anyone that would distract them. Give each group leader a handout to follow along.

Listening Prayer Small Group Activity:

Let's practice listening to God. Do you know how a cucumber becomes a pickle? It has to sit and soak. That's what we're about to do, become pickles. We have to sit and soak up what God wants us to hear. Let's talk about it a little.

- What are some names for God? What is your favorite name for God? (Jesus, Savior, King, Lord, One Who Hears, One Who Sees, Abba, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...do you know others?)

- What do you want most from God?
- We're going to sit quietly for three minutes and listen to what God has to tell you. Focus on breathing and if you get distracted say your favorite name for God in your head to help you focus.

Turn on soft worship music as kids sit silently. After three minutes, allow the small group leader to lead discussion.

Then discuss:

- Did anyone hear from God during that exercise, if so what did you hear?
- Was that a hard or easy exercise? Do we struggle with just sitting and listening?
- How can we better listen to God?
- When is a good time to listen to God?

Gather all the groups back together to close out worship response.

Let's remember that God wants to communicate with us. He LOVES us. He wants the best for us. Take time to listen to Him throughout your day and night.

Close the time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you always remember that God calls to you. He wants to communicate with you. He loves you. Remember to take time to listen to Him.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers (10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

- 1. Briefly retell the Bible story (1 Samuel: 1-3, 8-10).**
- 2. What was the name of the child, God gave to Hannah? (Samuel).**
- 3. Who did Samuel serve? (Eli the high priest).**
- 4. When did God speak to Samuel? (When he was sleeping).**

5. **Did God keep His promise and give the Israelites a King?** (Yes. He gave them a king, but it was different than what they were wanting).
6. **Have you ever prayed to God for something special in your life?**
7. **How has God spoken to you?** (Explain the ways God can talk with us/to us).

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. Read 1 Samuel 1-3

What did Hannah Pray for? (a child). **What was the name of the child, God gave to Hannah?** (Samuel).

Who did Samuel serve? (Eli the high priest).

When did God speak to Samuel? (When he was sleeping).

2. Read 1 Samuel 8-10

What did the Israelites ask for? (a king).

Did God keep His promise and give the Israelites a King? (Yes. He gave them a king, but it was different than what they were wanting).

3. **Have you ever prayed to God for something special in your life? Has He always given you what you asked for? Was His answer different than you expected?**
4. **How has God spoken to you?** (Explain the ways God can talk with us/to us).
5. **What are some ways you can listen to God?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Face Page

Supplies: 1 page per child, markers

Directions: Pass out an activity page and pens/markers etc. for each child. This can also be sent home if there is not enough time in class to complete.

Say: *Isn't it amazing how God can speak to us! If we take the time to listen, God will guide and speak to us to. We might not hear a big loud voice like Samuel, but we might here a small voice in our head or feel God talking to us in our heart! Let's do an activity to remind us of His promise, that He hears us and will talk to us too.*

Do: *We should always remember to listen with our ears and use our mouths to share the love of Jesus! Draw ears and mouths on our fun activity page. Are the ears big, small, giant??? How about the mouths? Are they unique? Small? Big? Maybe frowning or smiling?*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

Silent Charades Cards

Car	Ball	Beach
Cat	Door	Elephant
Fish	Frog	Guitar
Helicopter	Horse	Monkey

