



God Speaks to Samuel

1 Samuel 1-3; 8-10

God Statement: God is our Leader

KEY VERSE:

“Be strong and brave.” Joshua 1:9, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 S's are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally
SEEN: known and understood
SOOTHED: calmed and supported
They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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 Speaks to Us

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that God is our leader and how He spoke to Samuel:

Say: God is such a good leader! He promises that He will give us courage (show me your muscles) and be with us (give yourself a big hug). Sometimes, God leads us by talking to us. Can you turn to your neighbor and whisper "God speaks to us"? Sometimes God speaks to us in a whisper, and sometimes it's louder! Can we all shout on the count of three "God is with us"? One, two, three! "GOD IS WITH US"!

PLAY: Whisper Game

Supplies: None

Directions: Have the children sit in a circle and have a few, simple instructions ready to whisper. Have them follow the instructions you give.

Say: *Let's play a game! I am going to whisper, and you do what I say. (Say things like: "touch your head", "sit down", "stomp your feet.")*

Idea: if able, allow kids to have a chance to whisper special instructions too.

Say: *You're listening very well. We are going to hear a story about a boy who listened to God.*

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

WORSHIP

(5-7 minutes)

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

This month, please introduce the following songs:

- *My God is so big*
- *Only God can do*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, refer to the "*Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook*". God speaks to Samuel, **pages 94-95**.

BIG IDEA:

God speaks to us. It may not be out loud like Samuel, but if you listen closely, you will hear Him in your heart.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Speaks To Us

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Hamilton is woken up from sleeping. Try calling Hamilton several times to get his attention.

Say: Hamilton! I am so glad you are finally awake! It sure was hard getting you to hear my voice! This reminds me of a story in the bible when God called Samuel while he was sleeping!

Read the Bible from “Jesus Calling: Bible Story book.

Say: That is a boy named Samuel. He loved God and he is sleeping in his bed. Let’s pretend to lay down and fall asleep! Come on Hamilton, you can pretend with us!

Let children pretend to be asleep.

Say: Samuel hears his name being called! (***Say, “Samuel” quietly but firmly***) Samuel wakes up!

Let children sit back up.

Say: He runs to Eli, an old man. He thought Eli had called him! Eli says, “no, I did not call you. Go back to sleep.”

Say: Samuel hears his name called three more times! Eli tells him, “God is talking to you, Samuel. When you hear your name called again, say, “yes Lord, I am listening.”

Have children say, “Yes, Lord, I’m Listening!”

Say: God had a special job for Samuel to do. And Samuel listened to God! Thanks SO much Hamilton for helping us pretend as we told the story. We can’t wait to see you next time!

Hamilton waves goodbye to the class.

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that God is our Leader. *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: “God is our Leader!” (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times) “He is always with us!”*

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: God gives us courage! We might have to do scary things, but God is always with us. We can talk to Him any time. If we listen quietly, sometimes we can hear Him. Let's lay down for a minute and think about how God gives us courage. He loves us and watches over us.

Turn on soft worship response music in Plex under 2s & 3s folder while kids lay quiet for a minute or two.

Pray to close Large Group time out.

BLESSING (1 minute)

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.

"Be strong and courageous. The Lord is with you wherever you go."

Friends, remember that God speaks to us. It may look different than Samuel, but we can hear Him in our hearts if we listen closely. He loves you.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

The Respond Activity is an opportunity for the kids to tangibly respond to the lesson they have just learned.

MAKE: Coloring page

Supplies: *paper, markers, and stickers*

Directions: Pass out the coloring pages and have children color them to remember how God called Samuel. Make sure each child takes their coloring page home to show their parents what they learned.

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body

- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"

God is Speaks to Us
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