

GOD CALLS SAMUEL

1 Samuel 3:1-21

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

“Speak, for your servant is listening.”
1 Samuel 3:10

The Point:

God blesses and equips us to do great things.

Making Connections:

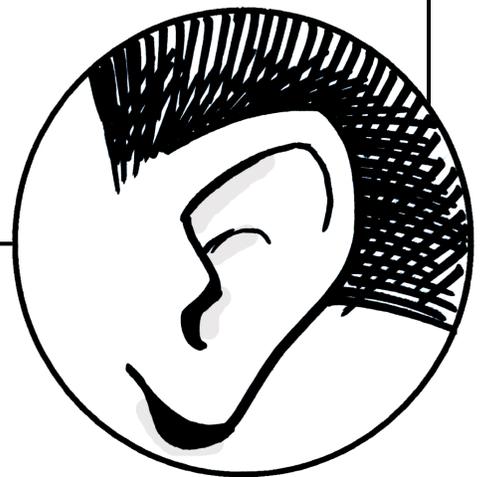
Called by God

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Ancient History

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Today we begin a number of “call” stories—stories of how God invites individuals to become leaders—hearing first about Israel’s great prophet, Samuel. In the weeks to come, we will hear the stories of David, Solomon, and Elijah.

Story Summary:

God Calls Samuel

Samuel, the son of Hannah, lived in the tabernacle (worship space) from a very early age and is called by God when he is only a boy. Even though Samuel does not recognize God’s voice at first, we can understand that Samuel has been nurtured in God’s grace his whole life. The image of the lamp of God shining on a sleeping Samuel reminds us that God’s love has shined on Samuel from before he was even aware of it, giving him reassurance and strength.

When God calls Samuel, Samuel seeks direction and counsel from the older, wiser Eli to understand what is happening. With Eli’s help, Samuel learns to recognize God’s voice. When Eli asks what God told Samuel, Samuel tells him the truth, even though it is a judgment against Eli. It is often the prophet’s job to speak the truth that others might not want to hear, and Samuel is willing to do that.

The story of Samuel helps us to understand that there is no age limit on God’s call. God sends all of us into the world to share God’s story and to work in God’s name. The community of God is built when we work together, young and old, to bear witness to God’s story.

The Point

God blesses and equips us to do great things.

The story of the call of Samuel is remarkable because Samuel is only a child, so young that he is not even sure whose voice he hears. It is Eli who sets him on the right path so that he can truly understand God’s plan for his life. This is an important story for all of us, but particularly for those young in faith. God calls and equips all of us, sometimes through the wisdom of our elders, and sometimes through the wisdom of those younger than us.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Ancient History

We all have stories of personal and family history that have shaped who we are today. In the same way, the stories in the Bible have shaped countless people of faith and help us understand who God is and how we fit into God’s story. Within the “History Books” of the Old Testament (Joshua through Esther), the writers told the story of Israel and God. At that time, the concern was less about precise facts and more about how the Israelites can understand themselves and the ups and downs of God’s relationship with them.

Spiritual Practice: Service

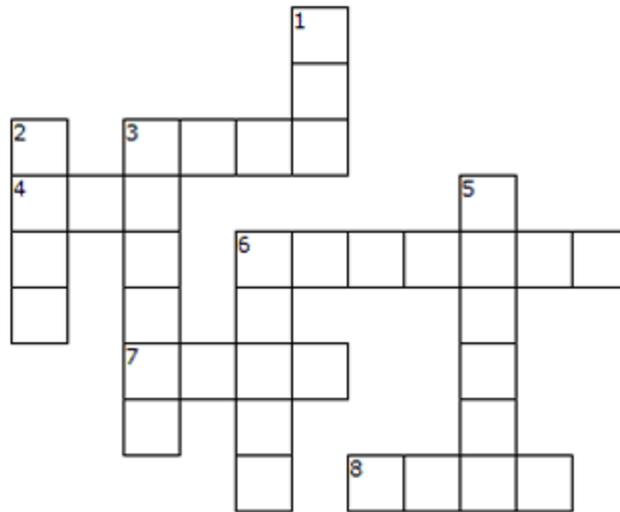
When God calls, we respond. Often, this response may take the form of service to our siblings in Christ. We serve others because of God’s call, which sends us out from the doors of the church into the world around us.



The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
 And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
 1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



ACROSS

3. Another name for God
4. A priest in the temple at Shilo
(1 Samuel 3:1)
6. A person who is employed to do work for another person
7. The pair of organs of seeing in the faces of humans and animals
8. To ask someone to come to you

DOWN

1. A piece of furniture with a flat surface that a person can lie on to sleep
2. Not strong
3. To give attention to a person who is speaking
5. A boy who ministered with Eli
6. To say words; to use the voice

SAMUEL
BED

SPEAK
EYES

CALL
LORD

ELI
SERVANT

WEAK
LISTEN

Samuel Served in God's House Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.



5 12 9

18 15 2 5

16 18 9 5 19 20

8 1 14 14 1 8

16 18 15 13 9 19 5

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

What did Samuel do?

8 5 19 5 18 22 5 4 7 15 4

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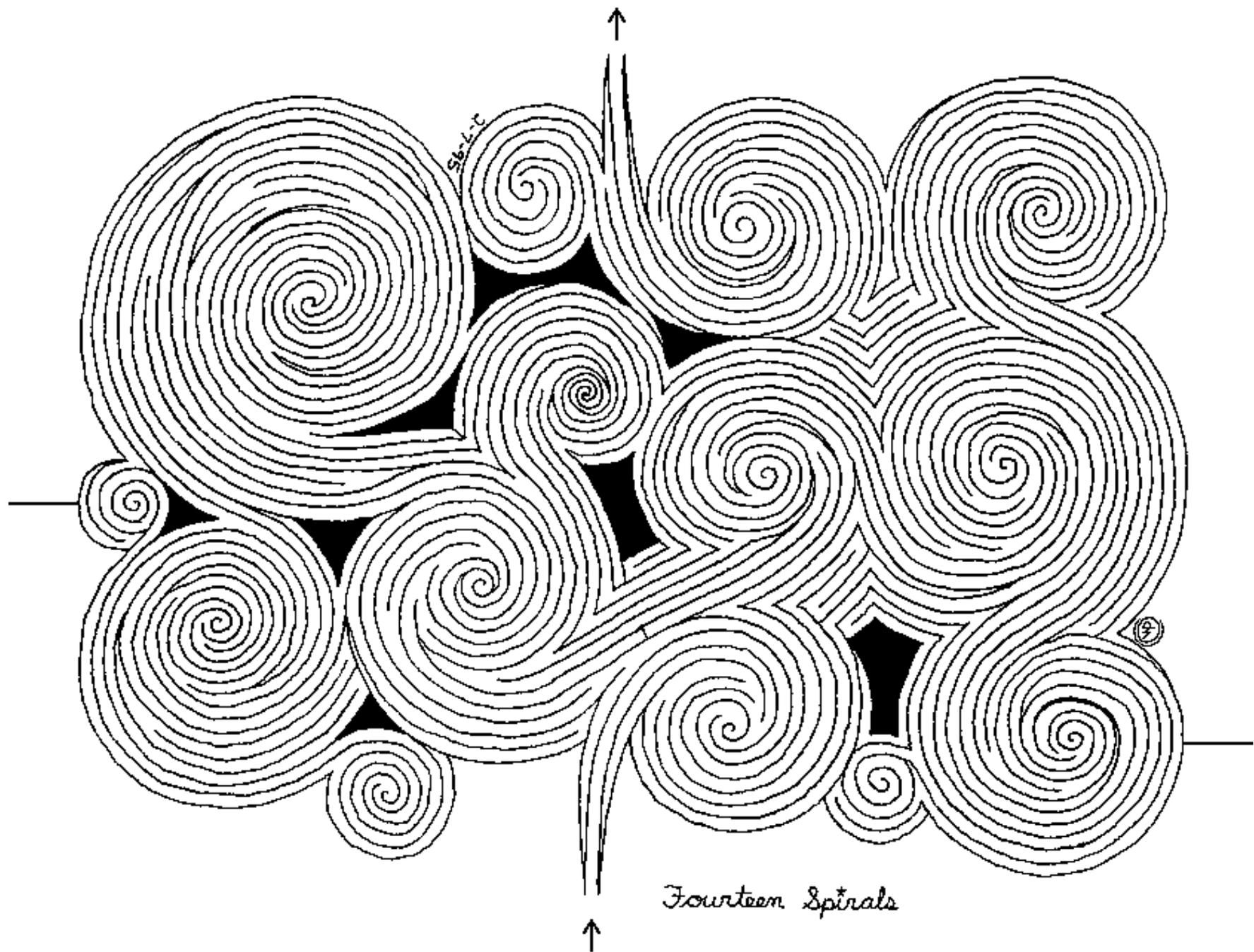
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S E R V A N T V I S I O N S C
 N Z J W L W V E G A F W E Q P
 H H H L V J G E M C A W Z M S
 S O L O N R A L W P U R I U T
 G A W R P P B C J D L K K F H
 L V M D Y J O S Z S A E Q J I
 Y I J U R M Y W S E Q B Y E R
 N Z S G E E Y L W O U W I F D
 T I A T E L V R I I C L M R P
 R N G E E V J E Y E S Y R M M
 N Q I H J N L F A S U S A N E
 V C G C T S I W X L P L L C V
 A G A E J E G N O Q E E F G I
 D L N L L E U E G R K D A Y D
 U E D E L I X G T Z D B K K P

LAMP	WORD	VISIONS	EYES	SERVANT
BOY	SPEAK	CALL	REVEALED	LORD
NIGHT	SAMUEL	LISTENING	WEAK	ARK
LIE	SEE	TEMPLE	THIRD	ELI





Fourteen Spirals



THE STORY @ HOME



Living the Word: Teaching Kids God’s Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-6
1 Samuel 3:1-21

LAST WEEK

After being freed from the Egyptians, the Israelites complained about the lack of food. God provided manna and quail for them to eat (Exodus 16:1-18).

THIS WEEK

In the middle of the night, a boy named Samuel hears a voice calling his name. It is God calling Samuel to be a great leader for Israel (1 Samuel 3:1-21).

STORY SUMMARY

God Calls Samuel.

God calls Samuel, the son of Hannah, when he is only a boy. Samuel does not recognize God’s voice at first, and seeks counsel from his elder, Eli. When Eli asks what God told Samuel, Samuel tells him the truth, even though it is a judgment against Eli. The story of Samuel helps us to understand that there is no age limit on God’s call. God sends all of us into the world to share God’s story and to work in God’s name.

THE POINT

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BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

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PRACTICE & SERVICE

God calls us to do other things as well. We serve others because of God’s call, which sends us out from the doors of the church into the world around us. This week we talk about Samuel relying on the wisdom of his elder, Eli. As a family, seek a way to serve the elders in your community.

NEXT WEEK

The Israelites demand a king, so God directs Samuel to anoint Saul as king over Israel. Saul fails, and so God sends Samuel to anoint a new king, a young man named David (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- ✝ Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- ✝ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✝ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21

God calls Samuel. Thank God for watching over us when we are awake or when we are asleep.

Monday—Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17

Samuel convinces the Israelites to worship God alone. What things might get in the way of our worshipping God? Pray together that God will remove those obstacles from our lives.

Tuesday—Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

Israel wants to be like other countries and have a king. Sometimes, it can be difficult to be different. What are some good things about being different?

Wednesday—Read 1 Samuel 10:17-27

Saul is nervous to be king and hides. Can you think of a time when you were so nervous that you wanted to hide? Write a prayer to God to help you in those times.

Thursday—Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25

Samuel recalls the story of God’s continued presence with the people of Israel. Tell stories about when you have seen God present in your family.

Friday—Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15

God needed a king who would follow God’s instructions. What things are you responsible for? Ask God to help you do a good job.

Saturday—Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Saul is rejected as king. Sometimes, plans change, but God still loves us. Pray that God will give you wisdom to trust God even when things look bad.