

# Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of God calling Samuel.

You can find it in your Bible in:  
**1 Samuel 3**

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Samuel being called by you. Thank you that just like Samuel heard your voice we can listen and hear from you today.

Help us to remember that just like Samuel and Eli we are never too young or too old to be used by you.

Teach us to listen to and recognise your voice. Give us faith and help us to be obedient like Samuel even when it is difficult. Amen

## Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

*Why do you think God chose to speak to Samuel?*

Eli was the High Priest but even he didn’t recognise at first that God was speaking to Samuel, in fact the story tells us that not many people were used to hearing directly from God in this time. God needed somebody who would listen and be obedient, somebody who was willing to learn and dedicated to serving God. Samuel was the perfect person for the job, it didn’t matter that he was young or even that he didn’t yet know much about God. God knew that Samuel would grow up to be somebody with influence, one day Samuel would be recognised as a prophet by all of God’s people.

A question for children to ask adults

*Can you tell me about a time when you have heard God’s voice most clearly?*

## Family Activity 1

Why not try some of these listening games today.

“I hear”, like I spy but using our ears. Everybody spends some time listening carefully to the sounds all around them. One person picks a sound that they can hear and everybody else must listen and try to guess what the sound is.

**Whose voice is that?** One person closes their eyes and somebody else must say a simple phrase (you could use part of the verse to remember for this). The person speaking could attempt to disguise their voice. Can the listener still work out who the voice belongs to?

**Pin Drop** Everybody closes their eyes and listens. One person is responsible for dropping a very light object like a pin. When somebody thinks they have heard the sound they should raise their hand. Who has the best hearing?

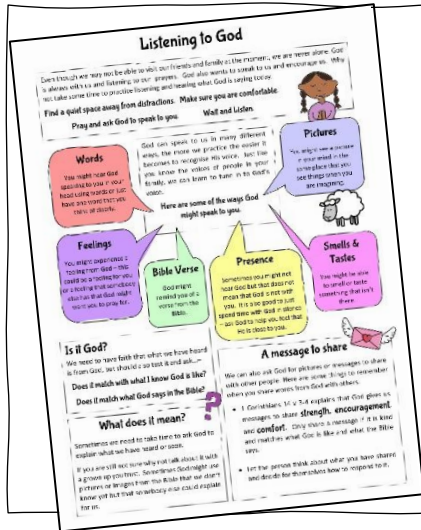


## A verse to remember

1 Samuel 3 v 10  
Samuel said,

"Speak, Lord.  
I am your servant  
and I am listening."

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.



## Active Listening

Just like God spoke to Samuel in the story He still wants to speak to us today. It might not always be a loud voice we hear with our ears, sometimes it can be through a feeling in our heart, a picture in our head or a new understanding of something we have read in our Bible.

Spend some time together listening to God together, ask God to speak to you and help you to feel him near you? What might God to be saying to you today about his love and plans for you? What messages might God want you to share with others?

*The resource on the next page can be used to help think about what it means to listen to and hear from God.*

## Family Activity 2

Play a game of sleeping lions. Everybody lies on the floor and pretends to be asleep. One person stays 'awake' and should try to spot movement or hear sounds.

They could make it more difficult for the sleepers by trying to make them laugh or jump.



## Where will you listen?

Samuel heard from God when he was in bed but God can speak to us wherever we are. Where might you try to listen to God this week? In bed? On the way to school? In the bath? On a walk? What places can you think of?

## Helping Older Children

Listening to and hearing from God is something we can practice; over time it becomes easier to hear and recognise God's voice. Older children might question whether what they are hearing is from God or just their own ideas and thoughts. As with all aspects of following God we must have faith and trust that God wants to and does speak to us.

In the story we read that Samuel didn't really even know much about God. What a comfort that we don't have to be certain in our own relationship with or knowledge of God for Him to speak to us.

# Listening to God

Even though we may not be able to visit our friends and family at the moment, we are never alone. God is always with us and listening to our prayers. God also wants to speak to us and encourage us. Why not take some time to practice listening and hearing what God is saying today.

**Find a quiet space away from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable.**

**Pray and ask God to speak to you.**

**Wait and Listen.**



## Words

You might hear God speaking to you in your head using words or just have one word that you think of clearly.

God can speak to us in many different ways, the more we practice the easier it becomes to recognise His voice. Just like you know the voices of people in your family, we can learn to tune in to God's voice.

**Here are some of the ways God might speak to you.**

## Pictures

You might see a picture in your mind in the same place that you see things when you are imagining.

## Feelings

You might experience a feeling from God – this could be a feeling for you or a feeling that somebody else has that God might want you to pray for.

## Bible Verse

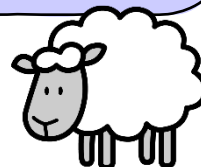
God might remind you of a verse from the Bible.

## Presence

Sometimes you might not hear God but that does not mean that God is not with you. It is also good to just spend time with God in silence – ask God to help you feel that He is close to you.

## Smells & Tastes

You might be able to smell or taste something that isn't there.



## Is it God?

We need to have faith that what we have heard is from God, but should also test it and ask...–

**Does it match with what I know God is like?**

**Does it match what God says in the Bible?**

## What does it mean?

Sometimes we need to take time to ask God to explain what we have heard or seen.

If you are still not sure why not talk about it with a grown up you trust. Sometimes God might use pictures or images from the Bible that we don't know yet but that somebody else could explain for us.

## A message to share



We can also ask God for pictures or messages to share with other people. Here are some things to remember when you share words from God with others.

- 1 Corinthians 14 v 3-4 explains that God gives us messages to share **strength, encouragement, and comfort**. Only share a message if it is kind and matches what God is like and what the Bible says.
- Let the person think about what you have shared and decide for themselves how to respond to it.

# A colouring page you could print and colour together

Colouring picture from Coloring for kids

## Samuel said

Speak, Lord.

I am your servant  
and I am listening.



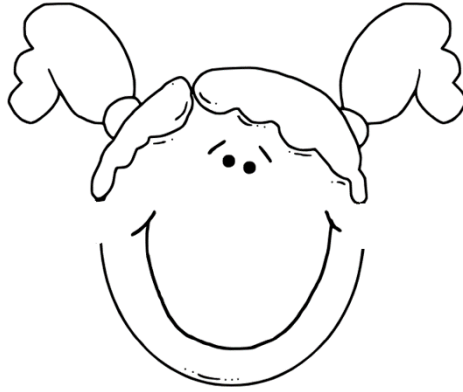
1 Samuel 3 v 10

# PUZZLE SHEET

The faces on the page have are all missing their ears! Can you draw them back on? Make them as big, small or funny looking as you like!

Can you find all these words in the wordsearch?  
They are all made from the letters of the word LISTEN.

- |               |             |            |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>listen</b> | <b>nest</b> | <b>tie</b> |
| <b>silent</b> | <b>lent</b> | <b>net</b> |
| <b>tinsel</b> | <b>sent</b> | <b>ten</b> |
| <b>stile</b>  | <b>line</b> | <b>nit</b> |
| <b>inlet</b>  | <b>tile</b> | <b>sit</b> |
| <b>tines</b>  | <b>list</b> | <b>let</b> |



j g t e l t i k e s e u g l r  
 t n e l i s t i e m l g i s t  
 e g b s n i t e y r i s k t d  
 k l e n i l j q n f t x e r u  
 u n i s n p s n f e s l a b w  
 t r i t i n e y n q n p l s d  
 m t b n t s w j l i k n e i z  
 s j c e t y g p s n f f n o z  
 l i h i p n j f g g w r t a s  
 f e v w h c s n p p f u y p p  
 u t s a q t i n e s z q a n d  
 w c y n h j h z l s d m h g q  
 k z l w i t f g v i t n e t h  
 t o e j x t c k o b m s e l o  
 g n c k i m y t j v d u y y a

How many other words can you think of which can be made from the letters of the word



Samuel has heard a voice, help him travel through the maze to find Eli the priest.

