



## THE GOSPEL PROJECT UNIT 9.6 SR. Eli & Samuel

Date: Sunday February 15, 2026 Teachers: Mike S (lead), Caleb N (co-lead)

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 1-3 Key Passage: Isaiah 33:22

Props: from home: none At centre: ball from the bag, activity sheet, cards-cut out before class

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Speak Kind Words like our God 3 in One

### ACROSTIC OF GOD “*Immanuel*”

*Susan*

### INTRO BIBLE STORY JR & SR COMBINED: “*Guess the sound*”

*Isaiah*

Hold a beanbag/ball and make a familiar sound with your mouth. Examples include a car honking, an airplane soaring, a bee buzzing, a clock ticking, a bird chirping, a dog barking, a cat mewing, Invite kids to guess the sound. If they guess correctly, toss the beanbag/ball to her and invite her to make a sound for the group to guess.

In today's Bible story, a boy named Samuel heard a sound. The sound was a voice calling his name. Samuel thought the priest Eli was calling for him, but he was wrong. It wasn't the priest or one of these weird sounds we made, What was it??!

### THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO: Samuel

#### DISCUSSION STARTER VIDEO

*Mike*

Are you a good listener? Do you ever not want to listen? Imagine if Samuel had just put a pillow over his head and gone back to bed!

Why did Emiliano miss out on a better snack? Was it that he couldn't hear or that he wasn't paying attention?

What are some things that can distract us and prevent us from hearing someone at times? [Invite responses.]

Are times that we choose not to hear someone else because we would rather pay attention to someone—or something—else? Just like it is hard for us to hear our parents or a teacher, or someone else, sometimes it is hard to hear from God because we are distracted or not paying attention. How can we hear from God everyday? Through His word the Scriptures He has given us.

### DISMISS JR. GR.1'S can choose to join SR or go with JR.

#### KEY PASSAGE VERSE:

*Caleb*

“ For the LORD is our judge; /the LORD is our lawgiver;/ the LORD is our king;/ he will save us. Isaiah 33:22

(this verse has been repeated for a few weeks you can just play the game)

Use tape to mark a large X on the floor. Form four groups and instruct each group to stand in a separate quadrant. Assign one phrase of the passage for kids in each quadrant to say together. Point to each group when it's their turn to speak. Call out “Left!” or “Right!” for groups to move one quadrant to the left or right. Kids should now say the phrase previously assigned to that quadrant. You might call out “Left two!” or “Right one!” to indicate how groups should move again. Repeat the activity to reinforce the key passage.

**BIBLE STORY REVIEW: "Who am I?"****Mike**

Briefly review the judges by saying review statements. After each statement, ask, "Who am I?" Sample statements:

1. I went with Barak but told him a woman would get the honor when Sisera was defeated. (Deborah)
2. God used my small army of men who lapped water with their tongues to defeat the Midianites. Who am I? (Gideon)
3. God made me strong and used me to free Israel from the Philistines. Who am I? (Samson)
4. I told Naomi that her people would be my people, and her God would be my God. Who am I? (Ruth)
5. God spoke to me when I was a boy living in the tabernacle with Eli the priest. Who am I? (Samuel)

**ACTIVITY: "Guess who called?" materials: none****Caleb**

Position a chair at the front of the room. Choose a volunteer to sit in the chair with her back to the rest of the kids. Point to a kid in the group. He should call out the name of the volunteer in the chair.

For example, "Paige! Paige!" The volunteer should try to guess who is speaking by replying, "Speak, [kid's name], for I am listening!" Allow the volunteer a few guesses if necessary. Then choose a new volunteer to take her place. Samuel heard his name being called, and it wasn't Eli. It was God, God had a special plan to use Samuel to bring the people back to Yahweh.

**ACTIVITY: "My name is Samuel"****Mike**

Invite kids to sit in a circle and imagine that they are Samuel, from today's Bible story. Begin with the first player. He will make a statement: "My name is Samuel, and ..." then he may provide a detail from the Bible story, such as "... my mom's name is Hannah."

If the statement is true, kids should reply, "Hi, Samuel!" If a kid shares a false statement, such as, "My name is Samuel, and I live at home," then kids should respond, "You're not Samuel!"

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My name is Samuel, and I serve the Lord. (true)

My name is Samuel, and I heard someone speaking at night. (true)

My name is Samuel, and I ignored God's voice. (false)

My name is Samuel, and I serve with Eli the priest. (true)

My name is Samuel, and I am a carpenter. (false)

God called Samuel to share God's plan. Samuel obeyed God, and he told Eli about God's plan even though it was bad news for Eli's sons who had sinned against God.

Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus showed the world what God is like, Jesus said, I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly, whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet he shall live! Jesus' invitation is to turn away from the ways that lead to death and receive his gift of life. Jesus ultimately freed people from the power of evil, sin and death by giving his life on the cross, and then rising again to give us His life by the Spirit.

**ACTIVITY: "Impossible tasks"****Caleb**

Invite each kid to attempt to do one or both of the following tasks. The tasks seem pretty easy, but they are actually impossible to do! Stand against one wall with your ankle, knee, hip, and shoulder of one side of your body touching the wall. Your head must also touch the wall. Try to lift your opposite foot off the ground without moving away from the wall. (Why it is impossible: You would need to move your head and shoulder of the wall to redistribute your weight.)

Sit in a chair with your feet in front of you flat on the ground and your back touching the back of the chair. Without using your hands or leaning forward, stand up. (Why it is impossible: With your back straight, your center of gravity is off. You can only put your weight over your knees so you can stand in this position by leaning forward.)

That was a challenge, wasn't it? Those tasks were impossible because we are limited by what our bodies can do. Hannah could not have children, and she prayed to God for a son. God answered her prayer and gave Hannah a son, Samuel. God called Samuel to share God's plan. Nothing is impossible with God!

**ACTIVITY: "deliver the message" relay (picture cards cut out, envelopes for each team)****Mike**

Form teams of no more than four each. Place a set of the "Messages" cards for each team at one end of the room. Invite teams to line up single file at the other end of the room. Give an envelope to the first child in each line. When you say go, the child with the envelope will walk to his team's cards, place one card in the envelope, walk back to the next child in line, and give her the envelope. The action is repeated until the team has all four of their cards in their envelope. The first team to deliver their envelope with all four cards to an adult leader wins.

Samuel was a special boy. God had answered Hannah's prayer for a son, and she had dedicated Samuel back to God. God had a special plan for Samuel, he was going to be God's messenger. Samuel was going to deliver messages from God to God's people. Do you think they will listen? Sometimes, will they like it? Not always **Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus showed the world what God is like.**

**NO ACCOMPANYING ACTIVITY SHEET, IF TIME ALLOWS PLAY ONE OF THE RELAY GAMES AGAIN.**