



BIBLE KIDS

Bible Kids - Week 2 Spiritual Ears

Opening prayer

Prayer for the millennial generation:

Here

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Dave Dick and Canyon Lake Community Church.

Closing prayer

INTRODUCTION

Samuel's time is described this way: Everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Another way of saying this is that everyone listened to themselves and no one else.

The people weren't listening to God, so God wasn't speaking to the people since they weren't listening to him. It's no use saying, "God, speak to me if you don't want to do what he says."

We have a similar problem today. God has spoken to us. We have a record of what he has said, but we often only listen to those parts that we like. "Love your enemies." Doesn't work for me. My neighbor's a Democrat. Can't be done.

“And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” The tithe doesn’t apply that way anymore... and so on and so forth.

This is what we call selective obedience. We obey the parts we like and reject the parts we don’t like. Or at least we find teaching that allows us to reject the parts we don’t like. Paul calls that tickling our ears, because we like preachers who agree with us.

But that's the background of Samuel's time — people were listening to themselves alone doing whatever they thought was right and even most pastors weren't telling the truth.

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NLT)

3 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli.

Eli, who was like a pastor, had two older sons, but they didn't love the Lord even though they were supposed to be pastors like their father, Eli.

But the little boy Samuel served the Lord (by serving Eli) instead of the two older boys who should have known better. So, age is never a sign of spiritual maturity. Age is never a sign that someone knows the Lord better or loves him more. As a young person, you can know the Lord better and be more obedient to him than many older people.

Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

Think of it this way. How many of you have ever seen snow? When does it snow? What time of year? In the winter. Right now it's summer and it's very hot. It's a different season. In the winter it's get colder and in some places, like in the mountains, it snows. Other places, it rains a lot in the winter.

Well, just like the seasons of weather, there are seasons in church life when the Spirit of God is more active, when He is felt more strongly than other times, when the Spirit of God is at work in a stronger way.

In Samuel's day it was a time when God's Spirit wasn't felt or heard from very often. We could call it a dry time. It was like a scorching day in the summer with no water. That's what it's like in a dry spiritual time.

2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. 4 Suddenly the Lord called out, “Samuel!”

#1 - God is the One who begins our relationship with Him.

What does God ask Samuel to do at this point?
Nothing. He just calls out to him.

Now, the Bible doesn't tell us if Samuel heard God with his ears or if he heard God within his heart (with what we would call his spiritual ears), but either way, God called him and Samuel heard it. But Samuel didn't know it was the Lord at first. It just sounded like a regular voice. As a matter of fact, Samuel thought Eli was calling him.

“Yes?” Samuel replied. “What is it?” 5 He got up and ran to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go back to bed.” So he did.

6 Then the Lord called out again, “Samuel!”

#2 - God calls to you over and over again.

God doesn’t just call you once. He calls you over and over. And when he calls you will hear.

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

“I didn’t call you, my son,” Eli said. “Go back to bed.”

7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before.

#3 - God calls you so that you might know Him.

Samuel didn’t recognize the voice of the Lord yet. He didn’t know the Lord. But God calls us before we know him, so that we might know Him.

Then when God calls us we start to understand the Bible in a way that we didn't before. We begin to hear messages from the Lord in the Bible. We begin to hear God's voice in the Bible. We begin to recognize his voice in the pages of the Bible.

And when you begin to understand God's voice in the Bible it helps us recognize other voices that would try and lead us away from the Lord. (My sheep know my voice.)

John 10:27-30 (ESV)

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Hearing the voice of Jesus in the Bible means we have spiritual ears. Do you have spiritual ears? Without spiritual ears you won't be able to hear Jesus, which means you won't recognize the truth when you hear it.

You'll listen to voices that are lies that claim to be the truth. That's what it's like before we know Jesus. We hear other voices, the voices of wolves telling us to follow paths that lead to Gingerbread houses, but once we get there the wolf wants to eat us.

Now, the reason we don't have spiritual ears is because sin makes us deaf to God's voice. We don't want to hear God because we'd rather follow our own voice. That's why we don't want to do what anybody else tells us because we

don't want to follow anyone's voice but our own.
We'd rather listen to ourselves than listen to God.
That's what it means to be a sinner.

But when God calls us he gives us spiritual ears.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them

That just means we recognize the words of Jesus
as the truth. We recognize Jesus himself as the
truth. His words are everything that is good and

true and they are all we need to live life in a way that will lead to happiness, to blessedness, which is deeper even than happiness.

But here's what's even more amazing. Just by hearing the words of Jesus, that he is our Lord, the one who created us, that he is our Savior, the one who died for us and that he is our King, the one who rose from the dead — just by hearing that message of Jesus and believing it — we have eternal life. That means we're going to heaven when we die.

Believing is just another way of saying you hear who Jesus is and what he has done for you. You hear the message of Jesus and you believe it.

That's how good God is — he takes people like us who would rather listen to ourselves even though he is all-knowing and knows what's best for us — he takes people like us and he calls us. He gives us ears to hear what Jesus has done and when we hear and believe we are given

eternal life. Now we have spiritual ears. Now our ears are open. Now we can hear the truth.

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,

There is not a person, there is not a power, there is not a planet, there is not a machine, there is not a country, there is not a king or ruler, there is not a weapon, there is not a bomb, there is not a

rocket, there is nothing and no one who is more powerful than God the Father. He is more powerful than all things because he created all things.

That's why Jesus says...

and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Jesus is saying that he's the same as God.

#4 - Jesus is the God who called Samuel.

8 So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy.

Sometimes others can see that God is doing something in our lives even before we recognize it.

9 So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to bed.

10 And the Lord came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Now, notice what's different this time. God didn't just call out this time, but God came to him. You see, God comes to us before we come to him. God comes to us so we can come to him. God calls us so we can hear him.

#5 - God comes to us now in Jesus.

God tells us that he came to us in Christ, that he speaks to us now through Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NLT)

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

God has given us his final word in Christ. God has given a message to the entire world and that message is Jesus Christ. If you want to know

anything about God, just look to Jesus Christ, because whatever Jesus is like God is like.

So, what do we do when we hear God's voice?

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

We respond. That means we pray to Him. This is a little boy who prayed, "Speak, your servant is listening."

Samuel was listening because God had already spoken to him. And God has spoken to you through the death of Jesus on the cross. By dying for your rebellious ears, He spoke the greatest message of love ever spoken. God left heaven to come near Samuel and Jesus left heaven to come near us, to die in our place. Then He rose again and now sends the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts with soft and gentle words that are packed with the power of truth. God has spoken and continues to speak like never before.

Romans 10:13

13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”