



BIG IDEA:

STEP THREE, LISTEN TO GOD

BIBLE:

1 Samuel

GRADE:

4 - 7

WEEK:

3



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ACTIVITY

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

INSTRUCTIONS: Play a kitchen sound seemingly out of nowhere. Then continue playing through as many sounds as time allows, and see how many the kids can guess correctly! Consider playing the sounds in order of what you deem easiest to identify to hardest. See if they catch on to what the sounds have in common (e.g., kitchen or cooking sounds)!

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: For kids from the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community, describe clues about the object itself rather than playing a sound.

Whoa, did you hear that? Raise your hand if you heard that noise. Hmm, let's listen and see if we can guess what that sound was!

Today's Bible story will show us that sometimes it's more important to simply listen!

QUESTION

LISTENING VS. HEARING

INSTRUCTIONS: Have a poster board or dry erase board available. Label half the board with "Listening" and the other half with "Hearing." As you ask the question, write out the kids' answers under the corresponding heading.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: Use the words "receiving" versus "processing" for Deaf/Hard of Hearing kids.



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What is the difference between listening and hearing?

Hearing is being able to detect sound. Listening requires more focus and paying attention to what you are hearing in order to understand it. So listening is not just about what sounds you can recognize with your ears.

For example, let's say the oven timer goes off. Beep!

If you hear the sound, that just means that your ears told your brain that there was a noise.

If you listen to the sound, then you'll know that whatever you're cooking in the oven is ready and needs to be taken out so it doesn't burn!

Can you think of some more examples where you need to listen — and not simply hear — something?

BIBLE STORY

GOD CALLS SAMUEL

Guess what time it is! It's time to tune in to the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show! Today, I have not one, not two, but three sous chefs to help me with the "ingredients" for this Bible story!

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose three volunteers (sous chefs) that you have prepared ahead of time to help you tell the story from 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–21. Split the group into three sections, each led by one sous chef. Assign each group one of the poster boards with words displaying what to say during the story. When these phrases come up in the story, point to the corresponding sous chef to signal them to rally their group.



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Last week, we learned about how a woman named Hannah was very sad because she couldn't have a baby. She took her sorrow to God and talked to God about it. She prayed for a son, and she promised that she would give her son to serve God for his whole life. Hannah was so happy to find out that God remembered her prayer! God gave her a son who would become one of God's prophets!

Who remembers what a prophet's job was? A prophet was someone chosen by God to speak for God to the people who needed to hear God's message.

Do you remember what Hannah named her baby? That's right, Samuel! Our story today is about Samuel! As with all things, time *fries* by, and Samuel has grown into a young boy. Let's find out what happens during this part of Samuel's life.

[*Read verses 1–3.*] Samuel grew up in the temple and served God under the direction of the priest, Eli. But one night, he heard a voice say.

[*Point to sous chef 1 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Samuel!"*]

Samuel thought Eli was calling him so he ran to Eli's room and said,

[*Point to sous chef 2 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Here I am. You called me."*]

But Eli did not. Eli was sleeping. So Eli said,

[*Point to sous chef 3 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "I did not call. Go back and lie down."*]

Samuel was pretty sure there was no one else in the temple that could be talking to him. And then he heard it again! [*Point to sous chefs 1, 2, and 3 in order again.*]



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After this happened three times, Eli realized that it was God talking to Samuel. So he told him, the next time he heard the voice, to say,

[Motion to all three sous chefs to turn their poster over. Have everyone say the sentence out loud together, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."]

Samuel heard God's voice for the first time that night. He had never been in that situation before. But after this night, Samuel became *berry* good at listening to God and reading God's Word. As he grew up, everyone knew Samuel to be God's prophet.

BIG IDEA

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INSTRUCTIONS: *Prepare the Big Idea "plate" according to the instructions in your Shop & Prep list. Hold the "plate" as a server would hold a platter with one hand. With your other hand, remove the tablecloth by pinching it in the center and lifting it up quickly and dramatically.*

If you asked a server questions about the food on the menu but didn't listen to their answers, you wouldn't have the information you needed to make a food choice!

It's the same with God. We can talk to God and ask questions about anything, but we have to take the next step of listening to God in order to prepare ourselves for our life with God. That's why we can't skip **step three, listen to God!**



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MEMORY VERSE

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."