

This week we are learning about

God Calls Samuel



READ IT

This week's Bible story is
God Calls Samuel
from 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

People of all ages help God.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Samuel
- Eli
- Temple
- God
- Call

Samuel grew up to be the last judge in Israel. He anointed Israel's first and second kings, Saul and David.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 122-125

Spark Bible pages 299-300

Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for using people of all ages to help you. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Whose voice do you recognize when they call your name?
- 2 Samuel went to live with Eli to learn about God. Who teaches you about God?
- 3 Why is it sometimes hard to listen to God?
- 4 Listen to different people's voices. What do you think God's voice sounds like? Could it sound like someone you know? Who?

Eye Spark

Whenever you see someone really old or really young, tell them, "You are the perfect age to help God."

Ear Spark

When someone calls your name, run to them saying, "Here I am!"

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Create a new bedtime routine for your family to do together or change an existing routine. What helps you sleep well? A story? A snack? Prayers? A song? Listening to music? A bubble bath? Follow the routine for the rest of the week or month, remembering what happened to David the night God called him.

For younger kids

Reverse roles a little—have a child put their parent to bed this week!

For older kids

Make an audio or video recording with a variety of voices saying your name, including your own. How many different ones can you record? Which sound the most like God?

God Calls Samuel



1 Samuel 3:1-20

Name _____

God calls **people** of all ages, even **kids** like **me!**

Who's Calling?

Samuel was asleep. **ZZZZZZZZZZ**

Samuel thought Eli was calling.

Here I am.

Eli wasn't calling Samuel so he went back to sleep. **ZZZZZZZZZZ**

Again Samuel thought Eli was calling.

Here I am.

Again Eli wasn't calling Samuel so he went back to sleep. **ZZZZZZZZZZ**

A third time Samuel thought Eli was calling. **Here I am.**

A third time Eli wasn't calling Samuel, BUT

This time Samuel knew it was God calling.



Today's Bible story, **God Calls Samuel**, is from the book of **1 Samuel**. 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament. There are **two** books called Samuel: **First** and Second.

My Hero

Samuel was a wise and brave kid to do what God asked of him. Heroes are wise and brave. When he grew up, Samuel shared many messages from God. Some people thought Samuel was a hero for God's people.



My hero is _____ because:

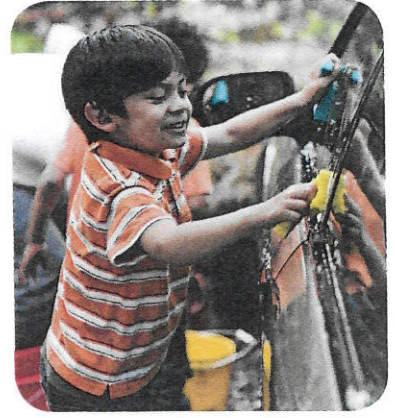


Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are four sets of these lines provided for writing.

TRY IT!

Helpful Kids!

Samuel worked for God, even though he was just a kid. By being helpful, I can work for God, too! I can help:



**Faith
on the Go!**

Today's Bible story, **Calls Samuel**, is from

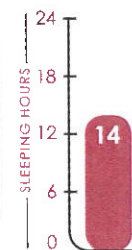
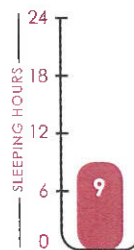
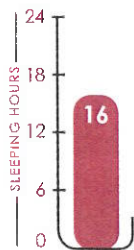
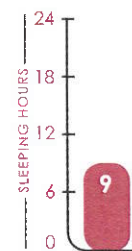
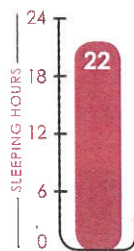
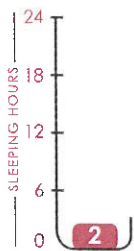
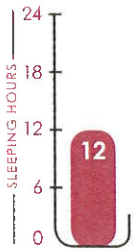
the book of **1 Samuel**. 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament.

There are books called Samuel: and Second.

Counting Sleep

Samuel was 12 years old when God called him out of a deep sleep. We all need good sleep.

- Newborn babies need 15–16 hours of sleep every day!
- Toddlers need 12–14 hours.
- Kids like me need 10–12 hours.
- Teenagers need 8–9 hours.
- Moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas need 7–9 hours.
- Giraffes only sleep 2 hours every day.
- Koalas sleep for 22 hours!



God calls people of **all** ages, even **kids like me!**

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

___ Tell you about Samuel

___ Take a nap with you

___ Help you in a new way

___ Sing you a bedtime song

___ Invite you to say "Here I am, God!"

___ Come when you call

___ Invite you to church

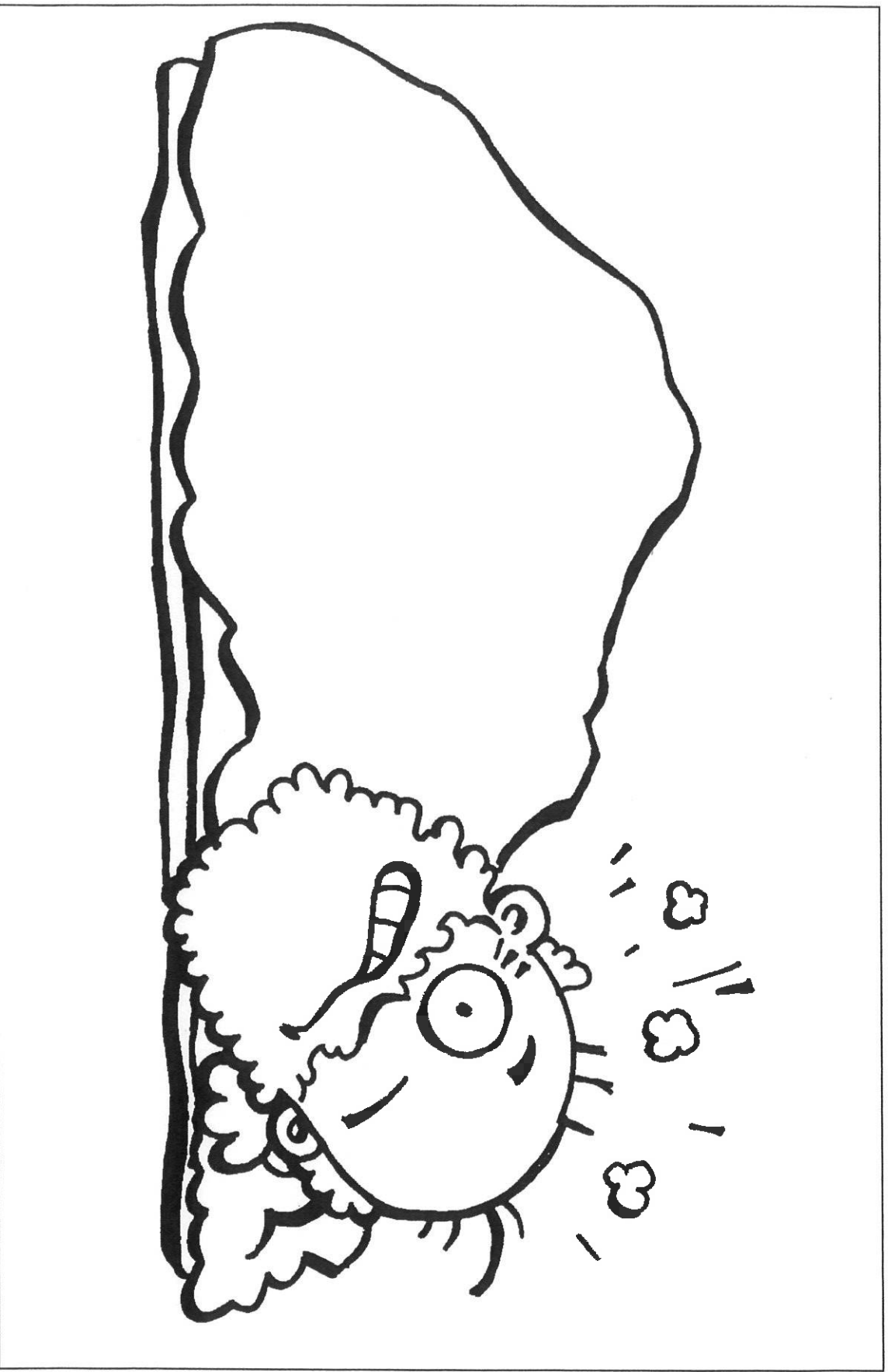
___ Give you a big hug

___ Say "I'm sorry"

___ Pray for you

___ My own idea: _____

God Calls Samuel



Eli was getting tired of Samuel coming into his room.

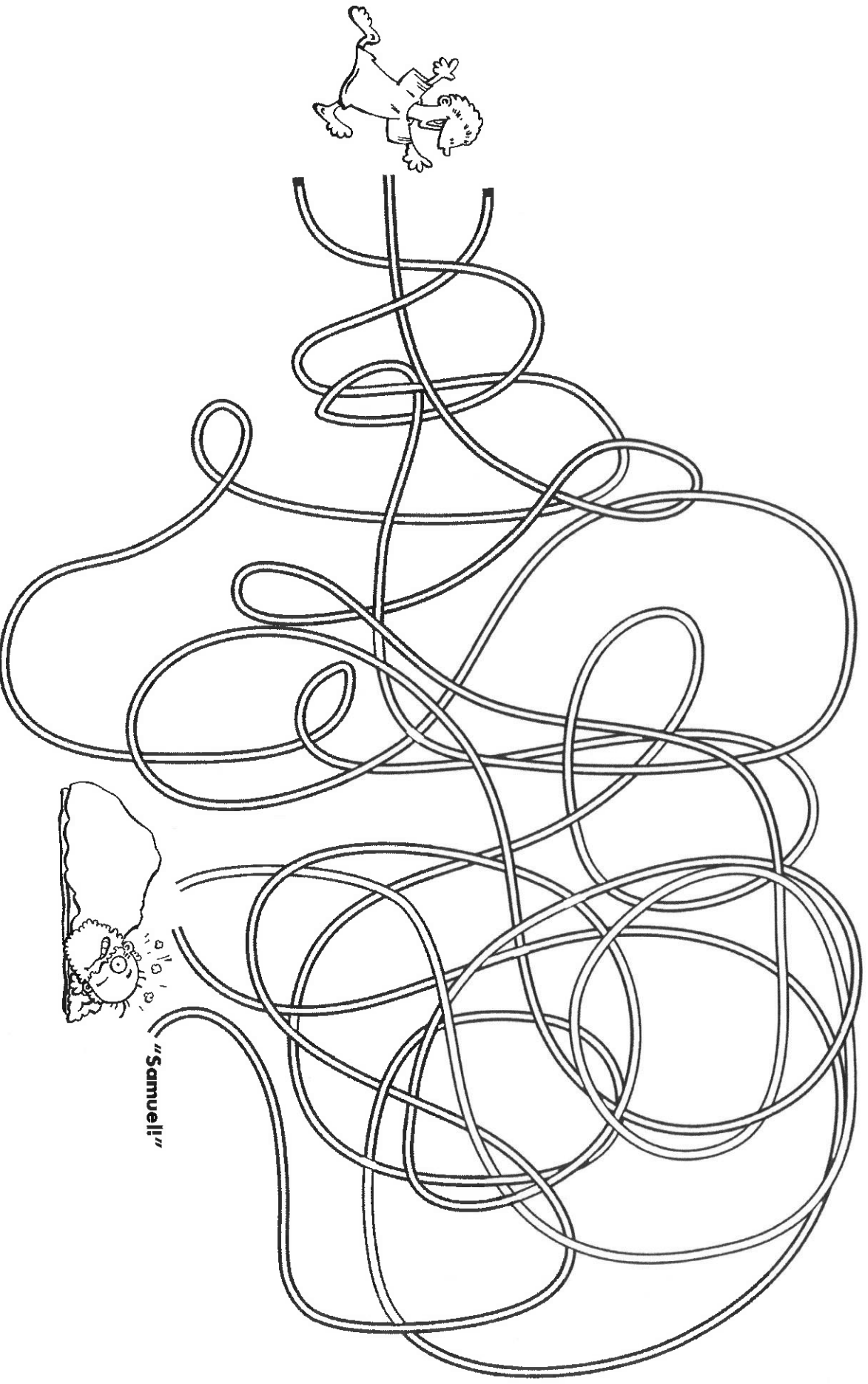
God Calls Samuel



“Here I am,” Samuel said.

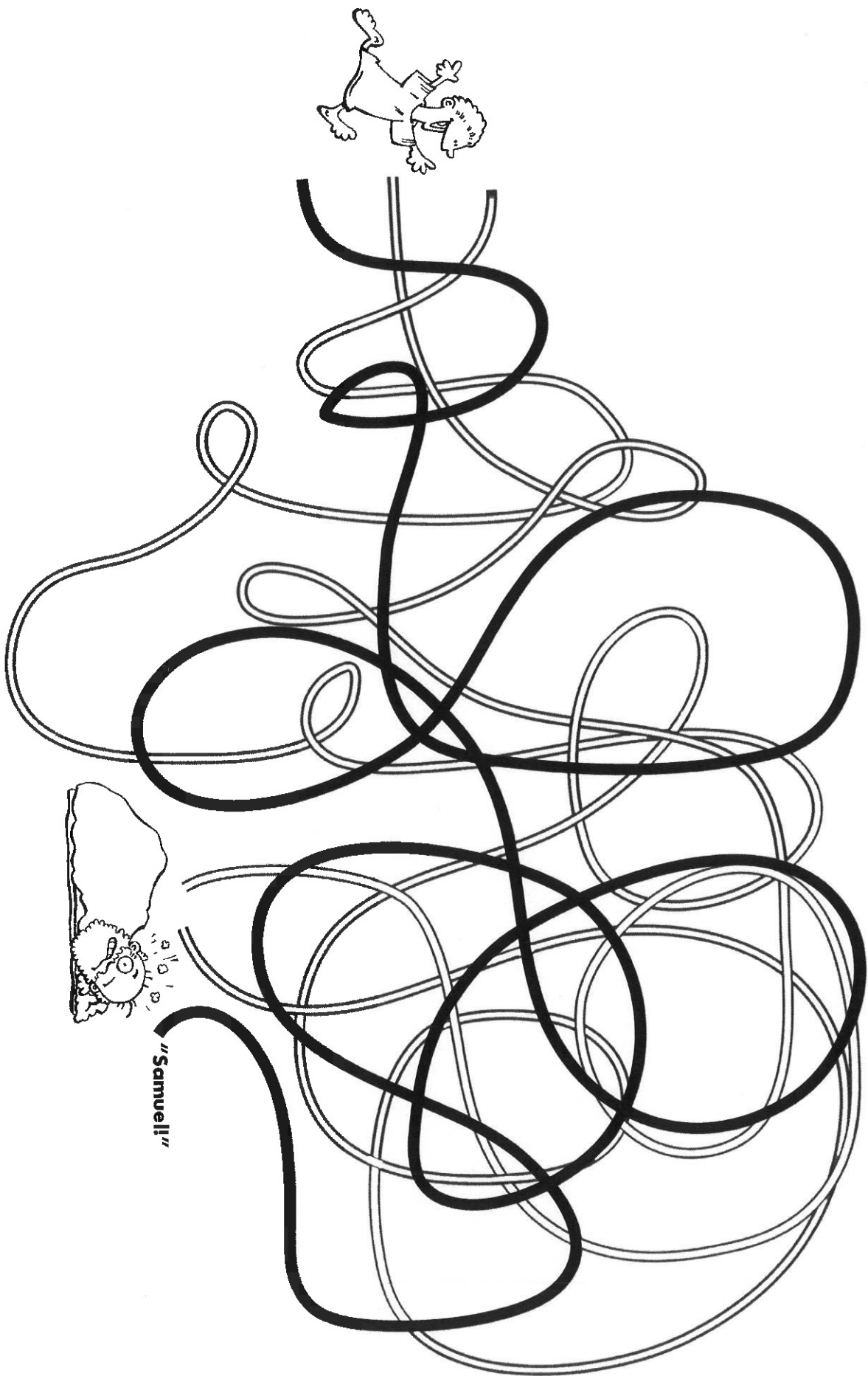
God Is Calling!

Help Samuel find God's voice. Follow the lines with a marker or pencil to find the one that leads to God's voice calling. "Samuel."



God Is Calling! Solution

Help Samuel find God's voice. Follow the lines with a marker or pencil to find the one that leads to God's voice calling. "Samuel."



1 Samuel 3:1-20

God calls me, too.

I Wonder...

- How Samuel felt the first time he heard God's voice.
- How Samuel felt as God continued to talk to him in the years to come.
- How I can keep listening for God's voice.



Listen, God Is Calling You

"Are you going to that relief shelter again, Grandma?" asked Elena. "I hardly see you anymore." Ever since the tornado ripped through their town two months ago, Grandma Lenora seemed to visit that Red Cross office every day.

"I go because God told me to go," she replied.

Elena's eyes grew big. "God told you?" she asked. "When? How? You saw God? You heard God?"

Grandma Lenora chuckled. "Not exactly that way," she said. "But when the tornado came, I knew I had to help. So many people lost their homes. And others had no jobs to go to because the buildings where they worked were destroyed." Elena thought about Justin, a boy in her class. She saw his apartment building on the news. It was just a pile of debris.

Grandma went on. "I wanted to see if I could help. When I walked into the shelter, I felt very still inside. I saw so many people I knew. My heart began to ache for them." Grandma stopped talking and wiped her eyes.

"God reminded me that Jesus told us that when we help others it's as if we are helping Jesus. So . . . I listened and obeyed. I am helping people I know. And I've met many wonderful new friends there."

Elena was quiet for a moment. "Can I come with you?" she asked. "Maybe I'll hear God's voice there, too!"

Grandma Lenora took Elena's hand. "Of course, dear. Of course."

Alphabet Answers

Directions:

Use the Sign Language Alphabet shown here to spell out the words to answer the questions from the Bible story.

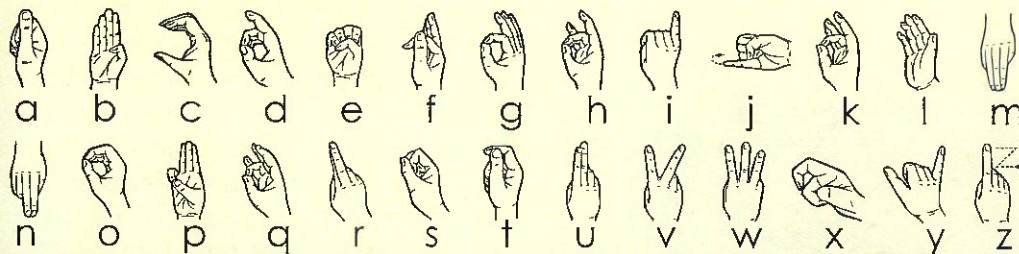
Who said, "Here I am?" _____

Samuel first thought _____ was calling him.

Where did Samuel live? _____

Samuel said, "Speak, for your _____ is listening."

Think of other questions from the story and answer using sign language.



Look It Up!

Read **1 Samuel 7:15** to find out about one of Samuel's jobs.



Memory Verse

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:10

Fun Facts

Samuel was the last of the judges.

Samuel anointed the first two kings of Israel.

Eli was the chief priest in the temple in Shiloh.

The Ark of God was also called the ark of the covenant.

High priests and associate priests, like Samuel, wore an ephod, or vest, at the altar.

A sleeping pallet was a cloth-covered mat placed on the floor.

Who Does God Call?

Cut out the grid shapes and rearrange the pieces to create a picture. Who is in the picture? Who is God calling to serve others?



**Faith
on the Go!**

Help with an outdoor clean-up and beautification project at your school or in your neighborhood, and ask a friend to help.

Ask your pastor if he or she felt called by God as a child.

Find stories of kids serving others throughout history and create a timeline.

Write "God loves you" on a sticky note and place it near the phones in your home so that your family sees this message when they make and receive calls.

Begin each day by saying, "Here I am, Lord. Show me how I can serve others today."

New Words

See how many new words you can make by using the letters in these words from 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Samuel

emu

servant

save

listening

get

beginning

nine

ministering

ring

offering

grin

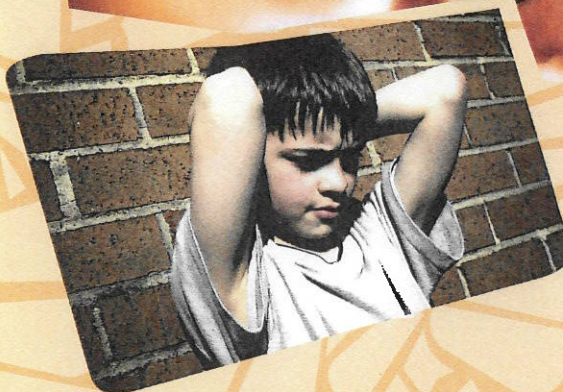
God Calls Samuel



1 Samuel 3:1-20



When God
speaks
and kids
listen,
great things
can happen.



Who helps you
decide **what** to do?

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Walking Home



It looked like every other house on Emily's walk home from school. Except for the long ramp that led up to a porch by the front door. Except for the old woman who was at the bottom of the ramp on the sidewalk every afternoon. She sat in a wheelchair right next to the flowers that surrounded both sides of the sidewalk. Emily wondered who planted all those flowers and took care of them.

Every day when Emily walked by the woman smiled and waved. At first it made Emily nervous. She would look the other way and walk by quickly. But then Emily got braver. She started to look at the woman and wave back. Then Emily got curious. What was the woman's name? How old was she? What had her life been like? Was she lonely?

Soon Emily started wondering what it would be like to talk with the woman.

Did You Know?



Some sleep experts say that we dream more than 2 hours every night! God's voice called Samuel in the night. The Bible has other stories of God speaking to people in dreams.



Look it up!

Read about other young people called by God in Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 1:26-30.

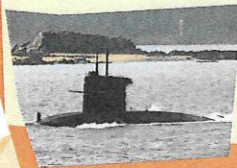
What did you say?

The boy Samuel was _____
 to the Lord under Eli.
 Samuel was lying down in the _____ of the Lord.
 Samuel did not yet _____ the Lord.
 "Speak, Lord, for your _____ is listening."
 "I am about to _____ his house forever."
 The Lord was with him, and let none of his _____ fall
 to the ground.

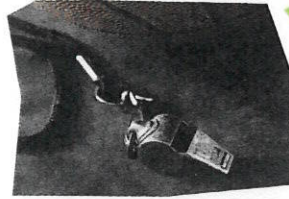
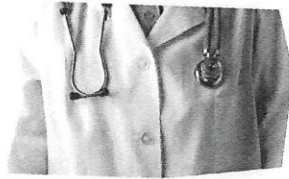
How Young Is Too Young?

God does not always speak directly to us. But God does use our talents and interests to inspire us to do amazing things—even when we are young.

- Christopher was 13 when he developed a magnetohydrodynamic drive engine. He was inspired by the movie *The Hunt For Red October*.
- Katherine was 14 when she investigated how smoke from a forest fire affected the lungs of grade-school kids.
- Brittney was 13 when she programmed a brain into her computer that allowed the computer to learn while playing soccer.
- Luke was 13 when he discovered how to neutralize acid that drained out of old mines into his favorite kayaking river.



Who's Your Eli?



Eli was a faithful follower of God who cared for Samuel. Samuel could trust him and talk with him about important things. Take a look at the pictures and think about the adults in your life you trust and can talk with about important things. Write names whenever you can name someone specific who wears or uses the things in the photos.

Faith on the Go!

Samuel was called to do something he had never done before...and at a young age, too! Throughout our life, we will be challenged to try new things, even when we may resist. Think of something you've never done before that would help make a difference in the life of someone else. Commit yourself to trying that something new, whatever it is. (Check with parents first.) Give thanks to God for giving you the ability to do it!

Memory Verse



As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
1 Samuel 3:19

Late Night Texting

In 1 Samuel 3:1-20, God speaks to Samuel while he's sleeping. Imagine this took place today, and instead of speaking, God chose to send a text message to Samuel. Here is what God said in verse 11:

See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. In the cell phone screen below, write what you think God's text message would look like. Be creative!

