

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B– Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Background

The Sundays after Epiphany contain stories that show forth the divinity of Jesus and the great power of God. We hear miracles, teachings, and events that make manifest God’s saving action in the world. We begin at the beginning: Genesis and the creation of the world. Then we hear stories of the prophets God called to tell the world of God’s goodness and mercy and often of the people’s need for repentance. We hear stories of healing, of promise, and of hope. We come to know that we are part of a long history of God’s love and redemption. We consider how we might share this good news with others.

A Notation for This Week

The story of the call of Samuel is both amusing and instructive. It reminds us to open our ears and be ready to hear God’s call. And it also reminds us that sometimes we mistake the voices we hear. Samuel went on to be a great leader. It is fun to see him as a little boy, still in need of guidance. We can learn much from him and his relationship with Eli. We can be challenged to listen more, to those around us who guide and teach us, and to listen for God to speak to us.

Theme: The Call of Samuel

Before Class: choose and learn the music if necessary.

Sing: “Lord Hear My Prayer” from Wonder, Love and Praise

Opening Prayer: Dear God, you call us all by name. Help us to listen for your voice. Amen.

The Story: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

This is a great story to be told using several different people’s voices. Let volunteers read the parts of Narrator, Eli, God, and Samuel. Tell it as many times as people want to participate. Consider using the Common English Bible version: <http://www.commonenglishbible.com>. You can also use the script found at the end of the lesson.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what happened next?
- I wonder who helps you to be a good listener?
- I wonder what God might say to you when he calls you?

Activity:

Games:

Consider playing “**Telephone**” - whisper something into one child’s ear, have them whisper it to their neighbor, all around the circle, and the last person repeats out loud what he has heard.

Compare it to the original message, and talk about how hard it is to whisper clearly and listen closely.

Make a **rainstorm** as a group - this time, the person next to you mimics your actions, then the person next to them, etc. until everyone in the circle is doing it, then switch to the next action:

1. rub the first two fingers of each hand together
2. rub palms together
3. clap two fingers to palm of other hand
4. clap hands
5. slap lap and stomp feet
6. clap hands
7. clap two fingers to palm of other hand
8. rub palms together
9. rub two fingers together
10. take a moment of silence

Talk about what it was like to follow and listen.

Art Response:

Listening Walk - go on a walk, keeping silence. Listen for as many sounds as you can identify. Try to remember them all. When back in the room, draw pictures of all the sounds you heard.

Work together to create and **decorate a banner** saying “Speak, your servant is listening.” Illustrate all the ways we can listen, and what we listen to.

Consider playing “Here I Am Lord” from Wonder, Love and Praise or “Day by Day” from the 1982 Hymnal or the Godspell soundtrack while the children are creating their art response.

Poetry Slam - encourage individuals or small groups to write poems about listening for God and the many ways God might speak to us. Sometimes some sentence starters help the process:

Listen...

Listen for God...

God speaks to us in...

Allow time for them to share their poems with the rest of the group.

Sing: Teach the children the simple song “Thuma Mina” from “Wonder, Love and Praise and also “My Heart Sings Out. This means “Send Me” and makes a wonderful chant for all times of day.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, you call each of us to service. Help us to hear your call, and to respond. Help us to share your message of love with others. Amen.

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1 Samuel 3:1-10

Narrator: Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called,

God: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel: "Here I am!"

Narrator: Samuel ran to Eli, and said,

Samuel: "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli: "I did not call; lie down again."

Narrator: So Samuel went and lay down. The Lord called again,

God: "Samuel!"

Narrator: Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,

Samuel: "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli: "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

Narrator: Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said,

Samuel: "Here I am, for you called me."

Narrator: Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel,

Eli: "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Narrator: So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before,

God: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel: "Speak, for your servant is listening."