

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B– Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger 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**

Read the passage using the Common English Bible <http://www.commonenglishbible.com>.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder when you might have heard someone calling your name?
- I wonder what God might say to you when he calls you.
- I wonder who helps you to be a good listener?

**Activity:**

**Listening 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.

Clapping Patterns - sit in a circle and clap a rhythm. Everyone else echoes it back to you. Then clap another rhythm and wait for the echo.

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.

Play a **clapping game** - the group echoes the leader's clapping rhythm.

Play "**Samuel Says**" (Or "Eli Says") - follow the leader, unless they do not use the preface "Samuel Says"

### **Art Responses:**

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.

**Sing:** Teach the children the simple song "Tuma 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.