

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children

Proper 4 (B)

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

BACKGROUND

In these summer months we hear the history of God's people, called by God, striving for right relationship, often failing and trying again. We hear of personal relationships with God, and the call to serve and lead God's people. And we consider how we might be called by God to listen, to serve, to repent and try again.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING

The story of Samuel's call can be humorous to us because at first Samuel does not recognize the voice of God. It is also instructive to us as we consider how well we listen for God in our own time. We are all called. Sometimes we need help to listen.

THEME

Listening for God

BEFORE CLASS

Gather paper and pens/pencils for listening exercise. Listen to the song for closing prayer.

BEGINNING

Sing some call and response songs, such as *This Is the Day that the Lord Has Made*. Invite the children to make up their own verses, such as "God calls us all into Ministry, we will respond and serve everyone."

or

Ask children to pair up with someone. Each person will have one full minute to tell about their past week. The other person should listen very carefully and remember as many details as possible. Then switch. After each has had a chance to share, gather as a large group and have everyone tell the group about their partner's week.

OPENING PRAYER

Open our ears, Lord, so that we might hear you when you call us. Open our hearts, Lord, that we might serve you every day. Amen.

THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Read the story in parts. Invite someone to be the narrator, and others to read the parts of God, Eli and Samuel. This is a wonderful story to act out, and soon the children will be able to tell it by heart and act it out also.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder why God called Samuel three times?
- I wonder how Eli finally knew that it was God calling?
- I wonder how many noises and voices happen without anyone hearing them?
- I wonder how God calls us today?
- I wonder when you might have heard God in your life?

ACTIVITIES

Listening Exercise: Distribute paper and pens/pencils to everyone. Set a timer and invite them to write down every noise they hear. Invite people to share their lists with the class and create a big list with every sound heard.

or

Go on a Listening Walk: Stop periodically to have the children share with a partner what they have heard so far.

or

Create a Symphony Machine: Each person comes up with their own sound and motion and attaches to the others. Invite a few to take turns at conducting the symphony machine, asking for louder then softer, faster, then slower sounds.

Invite the children to listen for sounds and voices they hadn't noticed before. Ask them to consider how God calls us today.

CLOSING PRAYER

Sing "Open My Heart" (by Ana Hernandez, from Music That Makes Community - you can sing any of the melody lines, you do not need them all) and use the following verses also: Open My Eyes; Open My Ears; Open My Hands. Or play the audio or video of Ana teaching the song and invite the kids to sing along.