

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger 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

Consider learning this story by heart. Decide where you will take your Listening Walk and make any necessary arrangements. Gather large paper and crayons/colored pencils/markers for mural. Listen to the song for closing prayer.

BEGINNING

Sing some call and response songs, such as "This Is the Day," perhaps adding new verses to fit the theme.

This is the day (this is the day)
That the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)
We will rejoice (we will rejoice)
And be glad in it (and be glad in it)

Unison: This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day (this is the day)

Unison: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Another verse might say:

"We pray to God/and God hears our prayer. God's near to us/and to everyone." or
"God, call us all/into ministry. We will respond/and serve everyone."



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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 or tell the story aloud twice. The second time, invite two children to act out the parts of Eli and Samuel. This is a wonderful story to tell by heart, so take some time to learn it well. Soon the children will be able to tell it and act it out also.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever heard a new noise and wondered what it was?
- 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 when you might have heard God in your life?

ACTIVITIES

Go on a Listening Walk. Stop periodically to have the children share with a partner what they have heard so far. After the walk, invite the class work on a big mural with all the sources of noise they heard on their walk. Add a title, such as “God’s Wonderfully Noisy World.”

and/or

Play a Game of Sound Charades. Have students take turns making the noises they heard on the walk, and let the class guess what the noises are or where on the walk they heard them.

and/or

Create a Symphony Machine. Each person comes up with their own sound and motion and attaches to the others. Try 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.

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.