

Samuel—The Boy Who Listened

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Our Spiritual Eyes	5	1–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Samuel—The Boy Who Listened	10	1–6		 A	baby name books
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1–6			chairs, music
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 My Service for God	5	1–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 "Yes, Lord, Yes"	5	1–6			
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Samuel's Service, My Service	5	1–6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Words About Samuel	5	1–2			
Samuel	5	3–4			
All About Samuel	5	5–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1–2			
iSPEAK	5	3–4			
iSPEAK	5	5–6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers learn about listening to God and obeying His commands. Through the example of Samuel, junior soldiers will understand that God calls people to His service even when they're children.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **1044 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

Samuel—The Boy Who Listened

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

1 Samuel 1-3

UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to four people from the Old Testament who are powerful examples for young people. Junior soldiers will learn the importance of relying on God, listening to God, following His guidance, and having complete trust in Him.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- paper
- pencils

SAMUEL WAS THE LAST of the judges in Israel. He was also a priest and a prophet. His mother Hannah wanted a son desperately. She cried out to God, asking Him for a son. She promised God that if He gave her a son, she'd give the child back to God. God answered Hannah's prayer, and she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means, "asked of God."

Hannah fulfilled her promise to God by giving Samuel back to Him. She took Samuel to the tabernacle where he lived with the high priest, Eli. While Samuel was still a child, God called him to be a prophet. Samuel was sleeping when he heard a voice calling him. Samuel thought that Eli was calling him, so he went to Eli. Eli didn't call Samuel. This occurred three times, and then Eli told Samuel that it was the Lord calling him. When Samuel heard the voice again he answered, "Speak. I'm listening."

Samuel continued to live with Eli. Eventually he became the high priest. Samuel had two sons, Joel and Abijah. He appointed them to serve as judges for Israel, but they were corrupt. The people of Israel pleaded with Samuel for a king. As a prophet, Samuel spoke to the people of Israel for God. He warned them about wanting a king as their ruler, but the people persisted. God appointed Samuel to anoint the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Our Spiritual Eyes

Divide junior soldiers into pairs. If there's an uneven number of junior soldiers, you should participate in this activity. Give each pair four pieces of paper and two pencils.

Instruct junior soldiers to make a line drawing (drawing without lifting up the pencil) of their partner without looking at their papers. They can only look at their partner. Then, instruct junior soldiers to draw another line drawing of their partner, however, this time they can look at their partner and their paper.

Say: **Which picture was easier to draw?** (Allow response.)

Say: **Which looks more like your partner?** (Allow response.)

Say: **Why do you think the picture that you were able to see while drawing turned out better?** (Allow response.)



Say: **Many times when God asks us to serve Him, we try to do it, but we don't really pay attention to what we're doing. When we don't pay attention to what we're doing, sometimes we mess up. But, when we pay attention to what God wants us to do, the results are much better.**

LESSON
**Samuel—The Boy
 Who Listened**  

Before class, make one copy of  A for each junior soldier. As you read today's lesson, instruct junior soldiers to fill out the information on "Samuel's List" and the corresponding answers on "My List." The answers to "Samuel's List" are underlined. Have several resources available that list different names and their meanings.

Say: **Samuel was a prophet, someone who spoke for God. He started serving God when he was only a little boy. Samuel's parents, Elkanah and Hannah, wanted to have a baby. Hannah prayed to God to give her a baby boy. She promised God that if He gave her a baby boy, when he was old enough, she'd give the boy back to Him.**

God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby boy. Hannah named the boy Samuel, which means "asked of God," because God answered her prayer. When Samuel was a baby, he lived in Mount Ephraim with his family. Hannah gave Samuel to God when Samuel no longer needed her to feed him.

If your corps has recently had a baby dedication ceremony, explain to the junior soldiers that the parents made a promise to God to raise the baby to love and serve God and the church. By making a promise to God, by dedicating the baby, they're thanking God for giving them the baby, and promising to trust in God as they raise the baby.

Say: **When Samuel was three years old, Hannah took him to the temple to give him to God. At the temple, she met the high priest Eli. She said to Eli, "I prayed for this child. The Lord has given me what I asked him for. So now I'm giving him to the Lord." Samuel was dedicated to God. Hannah left Samuel to live with Eli so that he could learn how to be a good servant of God.**

God used Eli to help Samuel learn how to be a good servant. Samuel also did chores to help Eli. Samuel helped Eli by unlocking the door each morning, cleaning the furniture, and sweeping the floors in the temple. Eli helped Samuel grow to love God. Who are some people at



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A
- pencils
- baby name books



the corps who help you grow to love God? (Allow response—corps officer, Sunday school teacher, Adventure Corps leader, etc.) **God has given you many people to help you understand His commands.**

One night while Samuel was sleeping he heard a voice say, "Samuel." Samuel answered, "Here I am." He quickly ran to Eli's room to see what he wanted. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed; he didn't call Samuel. Samuel went back to sleep. Again, he heard a voice say, "Samuel." Again, Samuel said, "Here I am," and ran to see Eli. Again, Eli told him to go back to bed. Samuel went back to sleep again. Once more Samuel heard a voice say, "Samuel." He said, "Here I am," and went to see Eli. This time Eli told Samuel that if he heard the voice again to say, "Speak Lord, I'm here to serve you. I'm listening."

Samuel went back to his room and went to sleep. Once again, he heard a voice say, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel woke up and said, "Speak Lord, I'm listening!" God spoke to Samuel and told him that Eli's sons were very bad, and that Eli and his sons were going to be punished for their sin.

The next morning Eli asked Samuel what God said. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God said, but he told him anyway. Eli said, "God is in control. Let Him do what is best."

Samuel continued to obey God. God gave messages to Samuel and he shared God's messages with the people of Israel. Everyone knew that God chose Samuel to be His messenger. Samuel was faithful and courageous; he did what was right even when he was afraid.

Samuel trusted God, and did what He asked. God used Samuel to do wonderful things. God will use you too, if you trust in Him and obey His commands.



TEACHER TIPS:

Write out difficult words on the board so you do not have to spell them for individual junior soldiers.



MEMORY VERSE
1 Samuel 3:10b (NIV) 

“Then Samuel replied, ‘Speak. I’m listening.’”

Play a game of musical chairs. Each time a junior soldier is eliminated from the game they must say the memory verse and tell one way they listen to God, or one way God speaks to His children.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES
 (CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

My Service For God (option 1) 

Divide junior soldiers into small groups.

Say: **When Samuel lived with Eli in the temple, he served God by helping Eli with the chores. He swept the floor, unlocked the door, and cleaned the furniture. What are some ways we can serve God by helping with the chores here at the corps?**

Allow junior soldiers to brainstorm service ideas in their groups. After a few minutes, ask each group to share their ideas. Write the service ideas on the board. As a brigade select one or two service ideas and complete them together.

“Yes, Lord, Yes” (option 2) 

Before class, write the words to Song #68 “Yes, Lord, Yes” from *Great Big Praise for a Great Big God* on a piece of poster board.

Play the song once while junior soldiers look over the words, (Track #18, CD 2) then play it again and have the junior soldiers sing along.

Say: **Samuel said “Yes!” to God. God calls each of us to serve Him. You can say “Yes!” too!**



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- chairs
- music



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- poster board
- *Great Big Praise* CD
- CD/Media player



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song # 75: "Make Me a Servant"
(Track #25, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3:10 (NirV); 1 Timothy 4:12 (NirV)

CHORUS: Song #68: "Yes, Lord, Yes"
(Track #18, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

DEVOTIONAL

Samuel's Service, My Service

Say: **Samuel began serving God when he was a little boy. How old was Samuel when he went to live at the temple with Eli?** (Allow response.)
He was only three years old.

Samuel learned to do many things for the Lord, even though he was a little boy. Paul wrote a letter to a young man named Timothy. We can read his letter in the New Testament. In his letter, Paul wrote, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure" (1 Timothy 4:12 NirV).

Say: **What can we learn from this verse?** (Allow response.) **Even though we're young, God can use us. This verse says that young people should be an example to other people. You may not be old enough to drive a car or to vote, but you're old enough to show others how to love God. What are some ways you can be a good example to others?** (Allow response.)

Say: **God uses anyone who wants to serve Him to help fulfill His plans. It doesn't matter if you're five years old or 95 years old, God will use you to help Him.**

PRAYER



Remember to fill out
the *What Do You Think*
Evaluation on page 109.

