

SAMUEL WAS BORN AND CALLED

1 SAMUEL 1-3



CHRIST CONNECTION: When we listen to God and follow Jesus' example, He will show us the right way to go.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives us all we need in Jesus. Philippians 4:19

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- A woman named Hannah prayed to God for a baby boy. She named him Samuel.
- One night, God said, "Samuel!" Samuel said, "I am listening."
- Samuel listened to God and was a special messenger for God to His people.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Hannah prayed to God for a baby. God heard Hannah's prayers and gave her a baby boy named Samuel. When Samuel was big enough, Hannah took him to the tabernacle to serve God. Hannah visited Samuel every year and brought him new clothes. One night while Samuel was sleeping, God called Samuel's name: "Samuel!" Samuel thought Eli, the priest, was calling for him. God spoke again, "Samuel!" Eli knew God was speaking to Samuel, so he told Samuel to listen. Samuel said, "Speak, God. I'm listening." Samuel grew up, and God was with him. Samuel became a special messenger for God in Israel.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”:

“God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]
God gives all that we need through His Son who set us free. [Cross arms over your chest.]
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]”

SAY “ A woman named Hannah prayed to God for a baby boy. She named him Samuel. God heard Hannah’s prayers. God hears our prayers too! ”

2 PLAY SOOTHING SOUNDS

Play various nature sounds from an electronic device in the room. Nature sound suggestions include rushing water, birds chirping, and so forth. Allow the babies to listen to each sound, and name each sound for the babies as it plays. Read the gospel gems as the babies continue listening to the new and unfamiliar sounds.

SAY “ We hear different sounds everyday. God gave us ears to hear the world around us and each other! Samuel listened to God and was a special messenger for God to His people. ”

3 MOVE AND SING

Sit on the floor with babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Play the song “Be Careful Little Eyes” from an electronic device. Point to the babies’ eyes, touch their ears, hands, and feet as each verse plays. Allow the song to play softly as you read the gospel gems.

SAY “ What do we use to listen? Yes! We use our ears to listen. One night, God said, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel said, ‘I am listening.’ God wants us to listen to Him! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the **Bible Story Poster** as you review the Bible story. Provide **small Bibles** for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your **Bible** to 1 Samuel 1. Show the **Bible Story Poster** as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the **Key Passage Phrase Card** and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE A FUNNEL

Collect **cardboard tubes** (one per toddler). Write **When we listen to God, He will show us the right way to go** on slips of paper and tape to the side of each tube. Give each toddler a tube to decorate using **crayons or washable markers**. Show them how to talk into the tube using funny voices. Retell the story. Speak through a tube during the dialogue of the story. Monitor closely, ensuring no toddler speaks loudly through the tube into another toddler's ear.

SAY “ One night, God said, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel said, ‘I am listening.’ Samuel listened to what God had to say. Can we listen to God too? Yes! God wants us to listen and obey Him every day! ”

3 STACK PICTURE BLOCKS

Print two copies of the **Bible Story Poster**. Cut one picture into six squares and use the other as an example for the toddlers to follow. Tape each piece of the picture to a **foam block**. Show toddlers how each image fits together. Allow toddlers to stack the blocks to make the picture.

SAY “ A woman named Hannah prayed to God for a baby boy. She named him Samuel. Does God hear our prayers? Yes! God hears our prayers because He cares for us! ”

4 TAKE A NATURE WALK

Consult your church's safety guidelines before taking the toddlers outside to a fenced-in or safe area. Weather permitting, guide the toddlers to sit together on **blankets** in the grass. Challenge the toddlers to listen quietly for the sounds around them. Point out nature sounds that can be heard. Review the Bible story as the toddlers listen.

SAY “ When we stop and listen, we can hear sounds all around us! Samuel grew up and listened to God. Can we listen to God too? Yes! Samuel listened to God and became a special messenger for God to His people. ”

5 SING AND MARCH

Use an **electronic device** to play or sing the song “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.” Show the toddlers how to march in place during the song. Pump one arm in the air and then across your body like you are leading a marching band. For more of a challenge, encourage the toddlers to follow you around the room, marching to the beat of the song.

SAY “ Samuel became a special messenger for God because he listened to God. When we listen to God and follow Jesus' example, He will show us the right way to go. ”

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CHRIST CONNECTION: When we listen to God and follow Jesus' example, He will show us the right way to go.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives us all we need in Jesus. Philippians 4:19

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MOVE TO THE BEAT

Instruct the toddlers to make a circle. Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Choose one way to move and show it to the toddlers. Encourage them to copy your move and add a move of their own. Continue adding moves as each person arrives, recalling each move (if possible). Talk about the Bible story as you follow moves and move to the beat.

SAY “ We all listened to the music and followed each other. Did Samuel listen to and follow God? Yes, Samuel listened when God spoke to him. When we listen to God and follow Jesus' example, He will show us the right way to go. ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”:

“God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]
 God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]
 God gives all that we need through His Son who set us free. [Cross arms over your chest.]
 God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]”

SAY “ Who is all we need? That’s right! Jesus is all we need! Our key passage phrase says, ‘God gives us all we need in Jesus.’ ”

3 MAKE SCRIPTURE PERSONAL

Place a sticky note or the Key Passage Phrase Card in your Bible at Philippians 4:19. Let the toddlers open your Bible to the marker. Repeat the key passage phrase, inserting each toddlers name in place of “us” and “we.” Help toddlers see how God cares for them through the Bible. Say the key passage phrase together.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘God gives us all we need in Jesus.’ Jesus is all we need! ”

4 PRACTICE PRAYING

Sit down with leaders facing the toddlers. Talk about what prayer looks like. Offer suggestions like hands clasped, hands together with palms flat, or simply still in your lap. Explain that prayer is talking to and listening to God, but there is no right or wrong way to pray. Close your eyes and pray over the toddlers. Pray for God to help the toddlers listen to Him.

SAY “ A woman named Hannah prayed to God for a baby boy. She named him Samuel. Can we pray to God? Yes, God wants us to pray to Him! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.