Sunday School Schedule

November 8

God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-20)

Younger Elementary Leader	Jesse Nelson
Younger Elementary Helper	Jeremy Steiner

Older Elementary Leader	Sharon Fox
Older Elementary Helper	

November 15

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-49)

Younger Elementary Leader	Caitlyn Pulitzer
Younger Elementary Helper	Casey Langford Jarquin

Older Elementary Leader	Sharon Fox
Older Elementary Helper	Jeremy Steiner

4 Year Olds – 2nd Grade Leader Guide

November 8th

God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-20)

What's happening in this story?
What happens to Samuel, a youth raised in the temple under Eli's tutelage, is rare indeed. For a long time, God has rarely been speaking, and few prophets have been gifted with visions. It would seem God has forgotten God's people. This story is really more of a theophany: an appearance of God. God's people perceive that God has been absent from their lives. This is not the case, of course. God is always at work, but the people don't realize this until God speaks to Samuel and Samuel starts delivering the word of the Lord.

What does this story mean for kids?
Kids have big imaginations, and this opens them up to the possibility of a vibrant prayer life. They will relate well to Samuel's age. Some kids may struggle to hear God's voice and are beginning notice that God doesn't always speak directly to us. While they aren't necessarily doubting their faith, they are more aware of the challenges of prayer. Samuel was twelve years old; this is one of the rare Bible stories that stars a child as the main character!

Why this theme?
Kids are told to listen many times throughout their days. Often, listening centers around instructions. For Samuel, this is more of listening for God. Kids are not separated from the presence of God: they can be listening for God's call in their lives all the time.

Watch the Video
View Episode 8, "Hampered Helper," on the Year Blue Fall PreK–Grade 2 DVD.
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Why does Otto have trouble finding a way to help at his church?
- Otto said, "You can't help anyone if you're a kid." What do you think about that?
- What surprised you about how Otto was able to help his pastor?
- What ways do you help?
- Who do you ask to help you?

Read the Story
Find "God Calls Samuel" on page 78 of the Whirl Story Bible. Before you read, invite kids to look for Samuel listening to God's call. Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page. Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Why do you think God called Samuel at night when he was sleeping?
- How did Eli help Samuel?
- How many times did God call before Samuel answered?
- Samuel was a boy when God called him to be a messenger. What surprised you about God calling Samuel as a boy?

• What are some ways God might be calling you to help or serve?

Game: Who Is Calling Samuel?

Have the kids stand together on one side of the room. Choose one child to be Samuel and have them stand on the opposite side of the room with their back to the group.

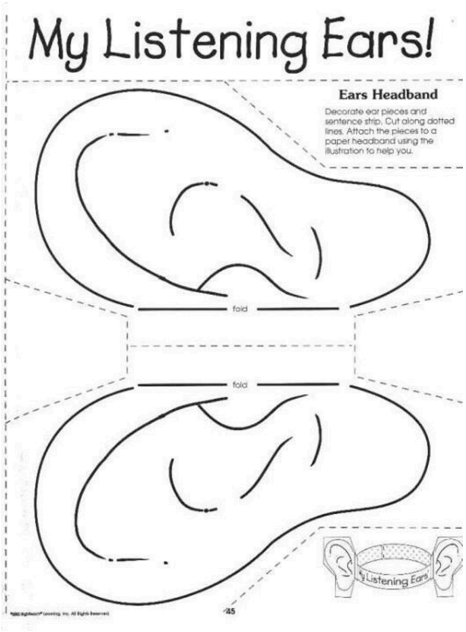
Silently choose another child to be the caller. The caller will call out, "Samuel!" (They can disguise their voice if they would like.)

When Samuel hears their name, they turn around and try to guess who is calling them.

- If Samuel guesses incorrectly, they turn back around, and the caller calls their name again.
- If Samuel guesses correctly, choose a new child to be Samuel and silently select a new caller.

Continue playing until several children have had a turn.

Craft: Listening Ears
Samuel heard a voice, but he was not sure where it came from. Use these listening ears to help you listen and to remind you that you too can listen to the voice of God!





3rd – 5th Grade Leader Guide

November 8th

God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-20)

What's happening in this story?
What happens to Samuel, a youth raised in the temple under Eli's tutelage, is rare indeed. For a long time, God has rarely been speaking, and few prophets have been gifted with visions. It would seem God has forgotten God's people. This story is really more of a theophany: an appearance of God. God's people perceive that God has been absent from their lives. This is not the case, of course. God is always at work, but the people don't realize this until God speaks to Samuel and Samuel starts delivering the word of the Lord.

What does this story mean for kids?
Kids have big imaginations, and this opens them up to the possibility of a vibrant prayer life. They will relate well to Samuel's age. Some kids may struggle to hear God's voice and are beginning notice that God doesn't always speak directly to us. While they aren't necessarily doubting their faith, they are more aware of the challenges of prayer. Samuel was twelve years old; this is one of the rare Bible stories that stars a child as the main character!

Why this theme?
Kids are told to listen many times throughout their days. Often, listening centers around instructions. For Samuel, this is more of listening for God. Kids are not separated from the presence of God: they can be listening for God's call in their lives all the time.

Watch the Video
View Episode 8, "A Little Help Here," on the Year Blue Fall Grades 3–6 DVD.
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What was Gabe waiting to hear from God?
- When did you realize Gabe wasn't really listening to God?
- Why do you think Gabe was missing all of the opportunities to help others?
- It can be easy to be distracted and not hear a parent or person in charge the first time. How do you realize that you've not heard a parent or teacher?
- Describe a time when you missed an opportunity to respond to God or to the needs of others. How can you pay better attention in the future?

Read the Story
Today's passage is from the book of 1 Samuel. It's in the Old Testament in the Historical Books section of the Bible. Invite kids to check out the book introduction and comic on page 327. Samuel's mother, Hannah, prayed for a baby, and promised that if God gave her a child, that child would grow up to serve the Lord. God answered Hannah's prayer. When Samuel was a young boy, she brought him to live in the temple and serve an old priest named Eli. Samuel was about twelve when today's story takes place. Help kids find 1 Samuel 3:1-20 and read the story

together. Invite kids to check out what Gabe says about 1 Samuel 3:2-4. Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Why do you think Samuel didn't recognize God's voice?
- When have you woken up confused in the middle of the night? What helped you to think clearly?
- How did Eli know that it was God speaking to Samuel?
- What was Samuel's response to God the fourth time?
- How would you respond if God woke you up? Who would you tell first?

Game: Who Is Calling Samuel?

Have the kids stand together on one side of the room. Choose one child to be Samuel and have them stand on the opposite side of the room with their back to the group.

Silently choose another child to be the caller. The caller will call out, "Samuel!" (They can disguise their voice if they would like.)

When Samuel hears their name, they turn around and try to guess who is calling them.

- If Samuel guesses incorrectly, they turn back around, and the caller calls their name again.
- If Samuel guesses correctly, choose a new child to be Samuel and silently select a new caller.

Continue playing until several children have had a turn.

Craft: Listening Ears

Samuel heard a voice, but he was not sure where it came from. Use these listening ears to help you listen and to remind you that you too can listen to the voice of God!

