



ALL-AGE WORSHIP

Be Available (1 Samuel 3:10)

Call to All-age Worship:

(Leader/All)

Let us worship God as children... **with wonder and awe.**

Let us worship God as youth... **with questions and eager hearts.**

Let us worship God as adults... **with gratitude and praise.**

Let us worship God as elders... **with wisdom and hope.**

Let the body of Christ sing praises to God, from whom all blessings flow!

Brethren.org/family/documents/calls-to-worship

Opening Song

- ♪ SASB 25 'God's love to me is wonderful'
- ♪ SoF 2249 'Come, people of the risen King'
- ♪ 'Celebrate God', Damien Herbert (Elevation Ministries)
- ♪ SoF 2407 'Let our praise be your welcome (Here for you)'

Tell the story

- ◆ Video - Young Samuel Bibletoon - YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHStDjHxrOQ
- ◆ Tell a child-friendly version of the story using any favourite children's Bible. When reading out the story encourage the congregation to say 'Samuel' in a booming God-like voice each time God calls Samuel. Have a PowerPoint slide set up with the word 'Samuel' and use the slide as a prompt. A potential version to use is 'Samuel Hears a Voice' from *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, pp50-51 by Bob Hartman, 2008 (ISBN 9780745964331).

Samuel hears God's voice – Game

GAME SHOW – WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

Set up a game show with a younger and older contestant (blindfolded) and game show host. The aim of the game is to correctly identify the sounds being made (opening/eating a bag of crisps, running on the spot/skipping rope, hammering nails, cracking an egg, writing on a chalkboard, tearing a sheet of paper – these sounds could be amplified. An alternative is to use sounds from a source such as YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=li-oNQ2aTmc)

Samuel didn't recognise God's voice. Samuel believed that it was Eli calling him because he did not know God's voice for himself.

Even Eli who was a priest needed three opportunities to realise that it was God speaking to Samuel. But once Eli had come to realise that it was God speaking to Samuel, Eli encouraged him to 'Go and lie down, and if he calls, say "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"'.

APPLICATION

Hearing God's voice is not always easy. The church family is space in which we can encourage each other to learn about God, to know God and to recognise his voice.

SONGS - KNOWING WHO GOD IS

- ♪ SoF 2004 'Our God is a great big God'
- ♪ 'Fandabidozzie', Doug Horley
- ♪ SoF 3145 'Who breaks the power (This is amazing grace)'

Samuel Listens - Illustration

I have a new set of headphones – don't they look cool? Would anyone like to come and try them on? (Invite a volunteer.)

They feel great, don't they, and they look good on you too. How do they sound? (Get feedback from the volunteer.)

They don't sound of anything? How come? (Get feedback.) They're not plugged in!

Why should that make a difference? (Get feedback.)

These headphones are a great tool for helping us to listen, but unless they are intentionally plugged into a source of sound they are pretty useless.

Once Samuel understood that it was God calling, he stopped and listened out for him. Samuel chose to listen – to plug himself into what God wanted to say to him. From that moment until Samuel was an old man, God spoke to him and told him some incredible things that changed his life and the life of others.

APPLICATION

God loves it when we choose to plug in to what he has to say – when we take time to get to know him in the same way that we take time to get to know a new friend.

When we do this – when we plug in and zone in to what he has to say to us – we come to know how much he loves us, we begin to understand the person he has created us to be, and we start to see the amazing plans he has for each of our lives.

POSSIBLE SONGS

- ♪ SoF 260 'I want to serve the purpose of God'
- ♪ 'I got you, Lord (Help me be your eyes)', Doug Horley
- ♪ SASB 775 'Master, speak: thy servant heareth'

SAMUEL MAKES HIMSELF AVAILABLE

Samuel was only a young boy when he was sent to serve Eli. Samuel wasn't necessarily the wisest, the smartest, the strongest, or the best. The Bible tells us that Samuel didn't even know God yet.

But despite all this, and with Eli's help, Samuel chose to stop and make himself available to listen to God; and when he did this God told him amazing things that changed his life and the lives of others.

The exciting thing is that God still speaks to boys and girls today – and grown-ups too! Sometimes we struggle to recognise God's voice when he calls us. It's good to have people we trust to help us listen

out for God. Sometimes we choose not to listen because we feel that we're too young, or too old, or not smart enough or strong enough to do what God is calling us to do.

But if we choose to make ourselves available – to listen to what God is saying to us – he tells us amazing things that can change our lives and the lives of the people around us.

Response

Create opportunities to allow people to 'sign up' to being available with their whole life – allow people the freedom of movement around the hall.

- ◆ Set up several large sheets of paper/ lining paper around the hall with the 'Be Available' logo on. Encourage people to:
 - ▶ Draw a full body self-portrait (whole life)
 - ▶ Sign their name
 - ▶ Draw an object/people that represents where God might be calling them to serve (school/work/ clubs/family/friends)
- ◆ Music to be sung/played with words projected:
 - ♪ SoF 3030 'Praise unbroken'
 - ♪ SoF 3059 'Take my life (Here I am)', Chris Tomlin version
 - ♪ SASB 623 'Take my life and let it be'
- ◆ 'Be Available...' take-home card for consideration:
 - ▶ How do I recognise God's voice?
 - ▶ When do I create time to listen?
 - ▶ Who is God calling me to be?
 - ▶ What is God calling me to do?

United Prayer

Dear Father God,

Thank you because you still speak to us today.

Thank you for our church family who help us to know you.

Thank you that you invite us to help you change the world.

Help us to hear your voice and make ourselves available to serve you and all people in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your son Jesus.

Amen.

Final song of celebration and affirmation in making ourselves available:

- ♪ SASB 321 'I dare to live the life of faith'
- ♪ SASB 1009 'Men of faith, rise up and sing (Shout to the north)'
- ♪ SASB 920 'Far and near hear the call'

HOW DO I
RECOGNISE
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VOICE?



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WHAT
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