

# GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

A FAMILY DEVOTION

3 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.<sup>6</sup> Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord:  
The word of the Lord had not yet been  
revealed to him.<sup>8</sup> A third time the Lord  
called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and  
went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called  
me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was  
calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go  
and lie down, and if he calls you, say,  
'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"  
So Samuel went and lay down in his  
place.<sup>10</sup> The Lord came and stood there,  
calling as at the other times, "Samuel!  
Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for  
your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Spend some time talking with your family about what happens in this story.

In our story this week, we see Jesus calling out to Samuel by his name in the same way our parents, grandparents or friends call out to us everyday. He heard God so clearly that he thought it was Eli. And since Samuel was unaware of the scripture, he thought it had to be Eli. After all, Eli was the only one there who knew him by name. Eli was familiar and knew Samuel personally, so it had to be Eli.

Right?

But what we learn in this story is that God knows us all by name. He calls to you and to me personally and loves each of us. He loves us as those who know our name on earth does, like our parents or friends!

God called to Eli the same way he calls all of us. He loves us dearly and calls us his children. As children of God, God is calling us to listen. To listen to his will, to listen to those around us and to listen for what he will have us do. In the same way you listen to your parents!

What are some ways we can listen to God's calling?

How can we listen to those around us?

How do we know what God wants us to do?

Dear Lord, we thank you for calling us by name and knowing us personally. We seek to know you more. Amen.