



1 Samuel 3: Children can hear God speak

*Gathering all generations
to pray for all nations
ASKing God to do what only He can do
and doing whatever He ASKs of us.*

*ASK that Children will understand
spiritual things in their early years*

If you have not already worked through the Basic Lessons, also found under Teaching Resources, it is recommended you do so, in order to get the most out of this and the other teaching lessons.

Application: Read the lesson first and then through the Scriptures. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your meditation, to show you where to stop and receive. What you receive will be the basis for your prayer. Because He gave it, there is authority there. Your personal response is where you build character as you are constantly coming into agreement with God's Word as a standard of righteousness. **Group:** Share what each received. This is a time of preparation for prayer. Pray through all that was received. Pray through one prayer topic until it is finished before starting another.

Context: Samuel's mother was barren and prayed to the LORD for a son which she vowed to give back to Him. She named the boy Samuel meaning, heard by God. As soon as Samuel was weaned at age 3 or 4, he was brought to Eli, the priest and judge of Israel. The child stayed with him and wearing an ephod, a priestly garment, ministered to the LORD before Eli. The Word of God was rare at this time and there was not widespread revelation because Eli's sons corrupted the ministry and Eli did not restrain them. Now God is raising up Samuel to replace Eli as Israel's prophet and judge.

1Samuel 3:1-21

v4 "The LORD called Samuel and he answered 'Here I am!' As a child he is obedient and alert.

v5 "So he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' And Eli said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' And he went and lay down."

v6 "Then the LORD called yet again, 'Samuel!' so Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am for you called me.' And Eli said, 'I did not call, my son, lie down again.'"

v7 "Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the Word of God yet revealed to him." This is encouraging because God is going to reveal Himself to Samuel.

v8 "And the LORD called Samuel again a third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am for you did call me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy." This time Samuel knows for sure he heard a call. God called Samuel by name; He knows your name and will speak personally to you through the Word.

v9 "Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and it shall be if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak LORD, for Your servant hears.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.'"

v10 “Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel, Samuel!’ and Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’” This time Samuel knew how to answer because Eli had prepared Him. Samuel was heard by God and learned to hear God himself. You will learn to recognize the voice of the LORD. Pray this for your children. If you do not have children, pray for the children you know.

Response: “Speak, Your servant hears,” is a meditation response sure to please God, with a servant attitude and faith to be able to understand what you are hearing. **Hear** in this context means to hear, understand and obey.

Verses 11-18 God revealed some very hard things to young Samuel, that Eli and his household were going to be judged because Eli had not restrained his sons’ evil conduct in the House of God.

Response: Your response to God tests your faithfulness. Even though Samuel was young, He faithfully delivered the Word of the LORD to Eli. Pray this for your children.

v18 “Then Samuel told Eli everything, and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, ‘It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him.’” We are not told if Eli repented.

Benefit: Spiritual growth and place of authority under God

v19 “So Samuel grew and LORD was with him and let none of His Words fall to the ground.” Samuel grew in discernment and knowledge of God; He knew God’s presence and God honored his words and they came to pass.

v21 “The LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the LORD.”

Later in Chapter 4:1

“And the Word of Samuel came to all Israel.” Samuel is moved into leadership and the word of the Lord is restored to Israel. Samuel was Israel’s last prophet, priest and judge; he anointed Saul as the first king and David also after Saul disqualified himself through disobedience.

Meditation in the Word is a place of revelation causing intercessors to grow in the ways of the LORD. God reveals Himself through the Word, lets you know His presence and releases faith as He gives the Word for the prayer times. The Word of the LORD will come to fruition, it is not dependent on you for its fruitfulness, Isaiah 55:11.

Response: Apply these Scriptures from v19 to your own life.

- Are you growing in the Word of God?
- Do you know God’s voice?
- Do you desire the servant attitude that is necessary to hear and pray out God’s word? Be honest with God. Tell Him where you are; He will help you.
- Do you take time to know and hear God through the Word?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your spirit to the things of God.

Application: Pray the insight you receive for the Church, the Body of Christ worldwide and for the children, the next generation. God wants to call others like Samuel, both boys and girls.

Meditation and prayer deposit a richness in the Lord and you and yours will be blessed as you pray for the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:27. “You are the body of Christ and members individually.” What you pray will come to bless you and yours and your church as well as the Church worldwide.