

# *Upper Elementary*

## *Samuel*

# Checklist

spoiled milk

2 cups

Topic:	Samuel
Prep:	Print out questions and answers and cut on lines. Place questions in one cup and answers in another.
Intro:	Show the two cups to children. Have them pull out a question, then pull out an answer. Most of them won't match up. Have you ever prayed for something and felt like God didn't answer you? God always has the right answer to our questions. But we have to listen and be willing to follow what He says. If we only pay attention to the answers that we like, we won't always hear the answers that go with our questions.

What animal says “oink?”	Pig
What color are leaves?	Green
What planet do we live on?	Earth
What color are tomatoes?	Red
How many eyes do you have?	Two
How many monkeys are in this room?	None
Do you have an ostrich in your home?	No
What is the answer to $2+2$ ?	Four

Hannah kept returning to the temple to visit Samuel and brought him clothes that she made for him. Samuel became Eli's helper. In ancient times there were no schools to learn how to do a job. A boy would become an apprentice to a master carpenter, iron-welder, sculptor, etc. The master would teach him how to do the job in exchange for work. When the master was old, the boy would take over. Eli was the priest of the temple and was training Samuel to work there when he grew up. In those days people brought sacrifices to the temple. This was mainly because before Jesus died on the cross, people needed a temporary substitution for their sins. It was their way of showing God they recognized how awful sin is, and that they trusted in Him to forgive them. The sacrifices were also how people donated to the priests and other people who worked in the temple to support them so they could do their jobs. Eli had two adult sons, and they also worked as his assistants in the temple.

Now the sons of Eli were wicked men. They didn't know Yahweh. The custom of the priests with the people was that when anyone offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant came while the meat was boiling, with a fork of three teeth in his hand; and he stabbed it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot. The priest took all that the fork brought up for himself. They did this to all the Israelites who came there to Shiloh. Yes, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat to roast for the priest; for he will not accept boiled meat from you, but raw." If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take as much as your soul desires;" then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force." The sin of the young men was very great before Yahweh; for the men despised Yahweh's offering.

1 Samuel 2:12-17



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<p>* Note to teacher, verse 22 names the other wrong action Eli's sons did, which is not appropriate for this age group.</p>	<p>This might not seem like a big deal, but Eli's sons were basically stealing meat (which was like money in those days) so they could have more than what they were supposed to have as payment for their work in the temple. It would be like if the person who was in charge of bringing in the collection money at church took a handful to put in their own pocket. People knew that was not how God had commanded it to be done, but Eli's sons bullied them into giving them more. Unfortunately, just like thousands of years ago, there are some people who act like they serve God, but don't actually have a relationship with Him. Sometimes these people will even have important church jobs, like Eli's sons. When we discover someone who we thought was serving God has actually been dishonest, it can be heartbreaking.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 2:23-24</p>	<p>He said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. No, my sons; for it is not a good report that I hear! You make Yahweh's people disobey."</p>
	<p>Eli heard from the people what his sons were doing. He told them to stop because when other people saw their leaders were cheating, they started doing wrong actions, too. If you learn that someone you looked up to was doing bad things, would it feel harder to still do the right thing? This is one reason why it's important to not let other people become our heroes. Only Jesus lived a sinless life. If we admire someone too much, whether it's our pastor or a famous singer or athlete, we will eventually be disappointed.</p>
	<p>Another prophet, who doesn't get named, even came to Eli and warned him that if he didn't stop what his sons were doing, they would not become priests after him. God had chosen someone else who would serve Him. If we find out that someone is doing something dishonest, should we look the other way, or should we report it? Unfortunately, Eli continued to look the other way while his sons stole from the people and did other bad things.</p>

Eli's sons were  
Dis \_\_\_\_\_  
&  
Dis \_\_\_\_\_

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 In ancient times there were no schools to learn how to do a job. A boy would become an apprentice to a master. The master would teach him how to do the job in exchange for work. When the master was old, the boy would take over.



1 Samuel  
3:1-6

The child Samuel ministered to Yahweh before Eli. Yahweh's word was rare in those days. There were not many visions, then. At that time, when Eli was laid down in his place (now his eyes had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see), and God's lamp hadn't yet gone out, and Samuel had laid down in Yahweh's temple where God's ark was, Yahweh called Samuel. He said, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." He said, "I didn't call. Lie down again." He went and lay down. Yahweh called yet again, "**Samuel!**" Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." He answered, "I didn't call, my son. Lie down again."

HOLY BIBLE

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Back then, God spoke to people:

all the time      very seldom



What does it say about God speaking to people at that time? (it rarely happened) Who did Samuel think was calling him? (Eli) Some people think that God only calls adults. The story of Samuel shows that God calls children, too. Samuel was just a young boy when God spoke to him. God calls all of us to follow Him. He may also call you to serve Him in some special way, like helping others. What should you say to God when He calls you? (Here I am)

Who did Samuel think was calling him? \_\_\_\_\_

Does God only call adults? \_\_\_\_\_

What can you say when God calls you? \_\_\_\_\_

<p>1 Samuel 3:7-10</p>	<p>Now Samuel didn't yet know Yahweh, neither was Yahweh's word yet revealed to him. Yahweh called Samuel again the third time. He arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." Eli perceived that Yahweh had called the child. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down. It shall be, if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, Yahweh; for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Yahweh came, and stood, and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak; for Your servant hears."</p>
	<p>What did Eli do differently this time? (told Samuel it was God speaking) What did Samuel do differently this time? (answer "Here I am. What do you want?) What did God do differently this time? (stand next to Samuel when He called)</p>



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What did they do differently this time?

Samuel

Stood beside Samuel.

Eli

Asked, "What do you want me to do?"

God

Realized it was the Lord speaking.



1 Samuel  
3:11-18

Yahweh said to Samuel, “Behold, I will do a thing in Israel at which both the ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from the beginning even to the end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves, and he didn’t restrain them. Therefore, I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be removed with sacrifice or offering forever.” Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of Yahweh’s house. Samuel was afraid to show Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son!” He said, “Here I am.” He said, “What is the thing that he has spoken to you? Please don’t hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He spoke to you.” Samuel told him every bit, and hid nothing from him. He said, “It is Yahweh. Let Him do what seems good to Him.”

spoiled  
milk

Let children smell the spoiled milk. Does it smell like something you would like to drink? Why not? No one likes spoiled milk. Eli's sons were dishonest. They did not do what was right with the food brought for sacrifices. They did not treat the temple with respect. Eli's job as a parent was to correct them. But he didn't do this. God commands parents to train their children properly. They are responsible to God for how they raise their children. If parents let their children get away with bad behavior and never punish them, they may wind up spoiled when they grow up. No one wants to drink spoiled milk and no one wants to be around spoiled people. You might think it would be nice if your parents spoiled you all the time, but when they discipline you, it's to keep you from turning into this (hold out milk).

How did Samuel react to learning he would have to give bad news to Eli? (he was afraid, but obeyed God)  
How did Eli react to the bad news? (he said "He is the Lord, and He will do what's right)

4

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1 Samuel 3:19-21	Samuel grew, and Yahweh was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of Yahweh. Yahweh appeared again in Shiloh; for Yahweh revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by Yahweh's word.
	The first message Samuel received from God might have been a test. How did Samuel do? (he obeyed) How did God reward him after that? (He often spoke to him) God may give us a hard situation to test us and see if we are honest and trustworthy. If we show God we are obedient to Him, He may prepare us to do great things for Him in the future. No prayer is too small and no act of obedience is unimportant. God is always watching us to see if we are ready to listen and obey.

	Yes	No
Did Eli obey God the first time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did Samuel obey God?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did Eli obey God the second time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

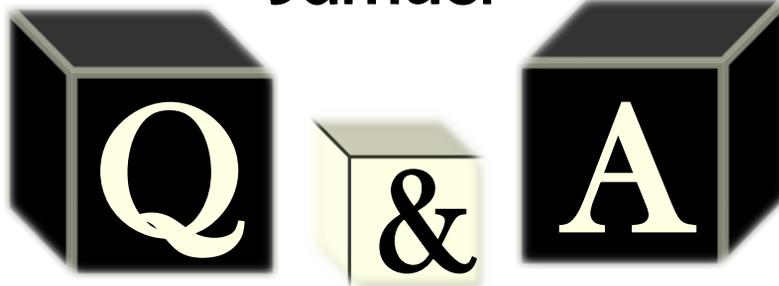
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Some ways to hear what God wants you to do:

- Listening during prayer
- Reading the Bible
- Listening to your pastor, Sunday school teachers and parents

Closing:	How do we know when God is talking to us? God uses lots of ways of giving us messages. You might feel like God is telling you to do something after reading the Bible, listening to the pastor, your Sunday school teachers, or your parents. God might put something on your heart during prayer. You can also tell if an action is a good idea by whether or not it makes sense with what you already know about God. Sit on the rug and tell children to stand up when you say something God might tell you to do and crouch down if it doesn't.
	apologize to someone you hurt
	make fun of someone who speaks differently
	look at someone else's answers during a test
	help a classmate with math
	laugh at a disabled person
	volunteer at church
	skip church to play video games
	help someone when they fall down
	collect canned food for a food drive
	bake a treat for your neighbor
	play a prank on your teacher
	use your spending money to buy a present for someone who needs cheering up
	give your old coat to charity
	gossip about a classmate
	spend your church offering on candy
do a marathon to raise money for the hungry	

# Samuel



1 Samuel 2:12-17

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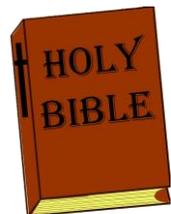
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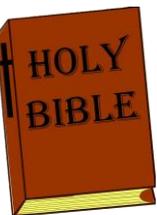
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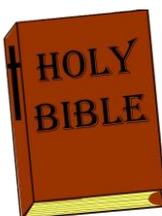


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# Samuel



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

S	H	I	L	O	H	Q	W	E	R	T
O	P	Q	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	Y
N	R	W	P	L	E	D	M	L	K	U
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S	I
F	Y	G	I	S	R	S	N	G	A	O
D	E	N	E	T	T	H	B	A	M	P
S	R	I	S	E	Y	O	V	S	U	L
A	F	P	T	N	U	N	C	S	E	K
Z	G	E	S	I	I	E	X	E	L	I
X	H	E	K	N	O	S	Z	M	D	J
C	J	L	L	G	P	T	A	S	F	H
V	K	S	P	E	A	K	I	N	G	G

SAMUEL

ELI

PRIESTS

SPEAKING

LISTENING

SLEEPING

SACRIFICES

MESSAGE

PRAYER

DISHONEST

SONS

SHILOH