

WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step three,
listen to God.

THE BIBLE

God Calls Samuel:
I Samuel 3:1-10; 19-21

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Jam Session

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Your Power Will Pull Us Through" (Group Publishing)
 - "I Will Pray" (Yancy)
 - "Trust In You" (Kidspring)
 - "God's Handiwork" (Lantern Music)

ACTIVITY | Mission Im-pasta-ble

- Hey, everyone! Welcome back to The Plate It Cooking Show! We have been learning about the prophets in the Bible. The prophets helped prepare everyone for life with God.
- **Do you know what you call the main dish of a meal?** The fancy word for that is called entrée! And today's entrée is . . . [reveal sample dish or picture] spaghetti with meatballs.
- Today, I will not be plating the dish, though. One of you will plate the dish by listening to the instructions I give you. Who wants to try?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out precooked spaghetti noodles (or other pasta of your choice), a jar of marinara sauce, and cooked meatballs. Invite a kid volunteer to try to plate the dish by following the directions you give them.
- Let's give a big round of applause to my assistant chef today! Great job listening to the instructions I gave you.

- Today we will talk more about why listening is so important!

ACTIVITY | What's that Noise?

- **How many of you have ever helped a grownup cook in the kitchen?** That's a lot of fun, right? I'm sure you've heard lots of different sounds when you were helping.
- Let's play a game. I will play a sound you might hear in the kitchen and listen to see if you can guess what it is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather the children around a computer, tablet or cell phone. Play through as many kitchen sounds as time allows, and see how many the kids can guess correctly!*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Grab a few noisemaking toys from your classroom and invite toddlers to play with them one or two at a time. Talk as a group about the sounds they hear. Examples could be using egg shakers, knocking blocks together or ringing bells.*

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | God Calls Samuel

- Guess what time it is! It's time to tune in to the Bible story segment of The Plate It Cooking Show!
- Last week, we learned about how a woman named Hannah was very sad because she couldn't have a baby. She talked to God and promised that if she had a son, he would serve God his whole life. God answered Hannah's prayer, and Hannah's son became one of God's prophets.
 - **What's a prophet?** A prophet was someone who delivered messages from God to the people.
 - **What was the name of Hannah's baby?** Samuel!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As you read or summarize 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–21, have kids repeat the Bible quotes and the accompanying motions to engage with the story.*
- Samuel grew up in the temple and served God with Eli the priest.
 - But one night, he heard a voice say, "Samuel!" *[Cup your hands around your mouth and motion for kids to follow.]*
 - Samuel thought Eli was calling him so he ran to Eli's room and said, "Here I am. You called me." *[Run really fast in place and have kids copy you.]*
 - But Eli was not the one who called to Samuel. Eli was sleeping. So Eli said, "I did not call. Go back and lie down." *[Shake your head and point to the front. Have kids repeat the words and motions.]*
 - Samuel was pretty sure there was no one else in the temple that could be talking to him. And then he heard it again! *[Repeat the above three motions and phrases two more times.]*
- Eli realized that it was God talking to Samuel. So he told him, the next time he heard the voice, to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." *[Cup your hands around your ears and have kids do the same.]*
- Samuel heard God's voice for the first time that night. After that, he always listened to God's voice and became a great prophet of God!

BIG IDEA | Step three, listen to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a new Big Idea plate for this week. Hold the “plate” as a server would hold a platter with one hand. With your other hand, remove the tablecloth by pinching it in the center and lifting it up quickly and dramatically. (You could use the same prop as last week and simply cover the Big Idea from last week with the new one.)
- Let’s say today’s Big Idea together . . . **step three, listen to God!**

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of Cali’s World.

ACTIVITY | Listening Servers

- In our Bible story today, Samuel heard God call his name many times.
- **Have you ever been to a restaurant where the person taking your order didn’t even write anything down but remembered everything?**
- Let’s practice our own listening skills by pretending to be servers at a restaurant.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Explain that you will call out a child’s name and give them an imaginary restaurant-related task to do (e.g., “Aiden, could you please wash the dishes?” “Evelyn, could you serve everyone a glass of water?”). Continue until everyone has been called and given a task. Challenge them a bit by calling a kid’s name more than once or giving them multi-part directions.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Prepare some play kitchen items (e.g., pots, pans, spatulas, and whisks). Scatter them around the space and have toddlers bring them to you when you call their name, or have them pretend to cook something.
- Being able to listen carefully is an excellent skill to have, especially when it comes to listening to God.
- We might not hear God’s voice like Samuel did. But we can listen to God by listening to the grownups in our lives who care for us and help us follow God.
- So after you trust God and talk to God, don’t forget **step three, listen to God!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being near to us. We’re listening! Help us to spend time with you and others who love you so we can always hear what you have to say to us. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Crunch Crunch Crunch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a crunchy snack such as veggie straws, Goldfish crackers (or another cheese cracker), animal crackers or graham crackers. Encourage the children to listen as they chew. [Be aware of any food allergies that might exist.]
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Serve toddler-friendly snacks such as Cheerios or puffs.
- **Can you hear the sounds you make as you eat?**
- **Let’s try eating really loud.** Wow, that’s very loud! Most people would not appreciate if you eat

like that around them!

- **Now let's try eating as quietly as we can.**
- Great job listening to yourself and listening to directions!

ACTIVITY | Did You Call Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the children lay down on the floor and pretend to sleep. Then take turns between two leaders who will randomly call out the kids' names. Allow the children to guess who called their name.
- **What was the boy's name in our story today?**
- **What did Samuel hear in the middle of the night?**
- **Who did Samuel think was calling him?**
- **Who really called Samuel?**
- God called out to Samuel while everyone was asleep but Samuel didn't know it was God!
- We need to pay attention to who is calling us. That's why we can't skip **step three, listen to God.**

ACTIVITY | Ears to Hear

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If possible, take the children on a walk around your church. You could also play them some ambient sounds ([like these](#)) and have them close their eyes. Instruct them to use their ears to listen for things around them.
- **What kinds of things did you hear?**
- Our ears help us listen to sounds. But listening to God means more than hearing sounds. It's about doing what God wants us to do!
- **What are some examples of listening to God?**

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a large bowl of uncooked beans or rice, plastic spoons, and an empty bottle with a large mouth. One at a time, have them scoop up a spoonful of beans or rice and drop it into the bottle as they repeat a section of the verse after you. Suggested breakdown: For we are / God's handiwork / created in / Christ Jesus / to do good works / which God prepared /in advance /for us to do / Ephesians 2:10. Repeat until every kid has gone through the entire verse once.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse. For added fun, keep their coloring pages each week, and at the end of the month, bind them together to create a coloring page "recipe book" they can take home!

ACTIVITY | Eli Says

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a few rounds of Simon Says, giving the kids simple-to-follow commands. Substitute "Eli" for "Simon". Add in a component where whenever you say "Samuel!" while you play, kids have to pause and put a hand to their ear.*

ACTIVITY | Peas Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This game will be a mixture of Hot Potato and Freeze Tag. Prepare a bag of frozen peas to play with. The kid that is "it" has the bag of frozen peas. When you play the music, the kid that is "it" will try to tag people. Anyone who is tagged must freeze on the spot for ten seconds, while whoever is "it" gives them the peas and runs away. After ten seconds, the kid that was "frozen" is now "it". When you stop the music, whoever is holding the peas is out!*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.