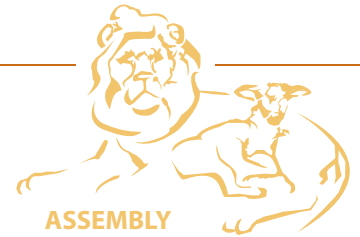


## GOD CALLED LITTLE SAMUEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 2 - 3



*This is a very familiar story and the children will enjoy hearing it again. Read it from the NIV (1 Samuel 3:1-10) or re-tell the story yourself in your own words. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

## THE QUIET CALLING

Have all the children find a place on the carpet to lay down. The goal of this game is to see who can hear you call their name with the faintest voice and pick out what teacher called them. Have all the children lay down on the carpet, close their eyes while one of the teachers, using a class roster, calls out a person's name very quietly.

## WHERE IS JESUS?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

In the midst of corruption within Eli's household, God sent a man to prophecy the coming of a faithful priest who would be obedient to the heart and mind of God. The final fulfillment of this promise came in the life of Christ, see John 14:31. Jesus did only what His Father commanded Him to do. Jesus is a faithful high priest forever, see Hebrews 7:21-24. Samuel was also a foreshadowing of Christ. Very similar language is used to describe both Samuel and Jesus, see Luke 2:52 and 1 Samuel 2:26.

Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days.  
(Acts 3:24)

## GOD CALLED LITTLE SAMUEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 2 - 3

### A NEW TESTAMENT LOOK

Here is a companion New Testament passage to use:

"The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

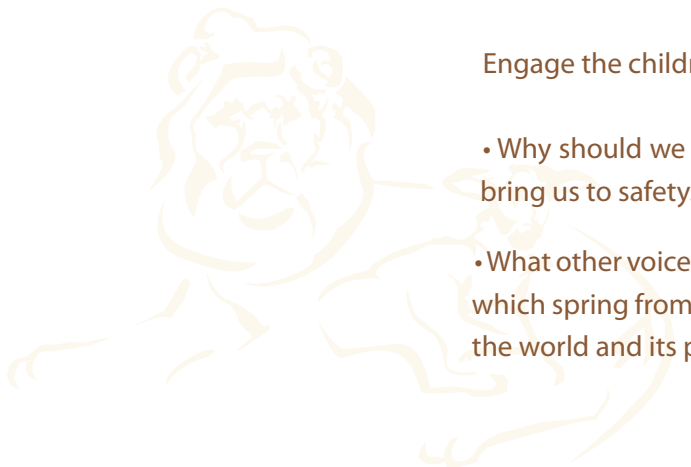
"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."  
(John 10:3-14)

You can have the children act the above passage out. Create a sheep pen out of tables and have one teen play the Lord and the rest of the class play the sheep. Have one child play the stranger and have the sheep run away from him.

Engage the children by asking the following questions:

- Why should we follow the Lord and not the stranger? (The stranger will not bring us to safety. Only the Lord's voice can direct us onto the Lord's path.)
- What other voices try to compete with the Lord's voice? (Our sinful temptations which spring from our desires, the world and its pleasures, and the enemy using the world and its pleasures all call out to us to follow them.)



# GOD CALLED LITTLE SAMUEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 2 - 3

