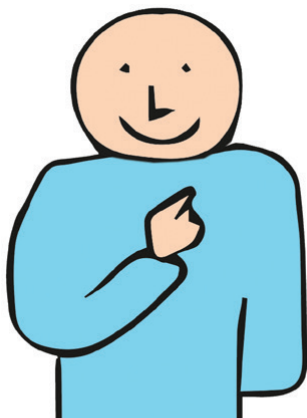


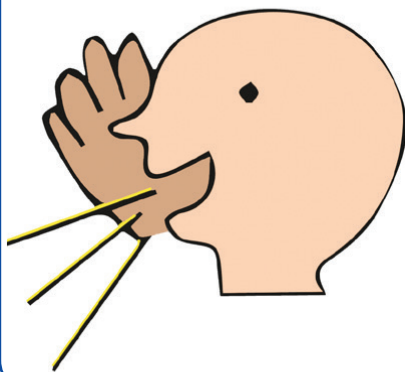
The group leader places these cards in front of them in the following order while saying slowly:

Children with special needs may find it helpful to use these cards when introducing themselves. Each person uses them to say his/her name and then asks for his/her neighbor's name.

MY



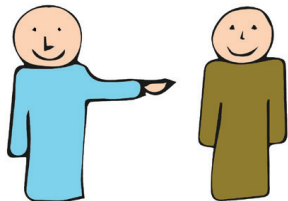
NAME IS



SAY
FIRST
NAME

The group leader (or the child) places these cards in front of the child:

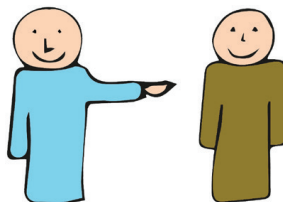
WHAT



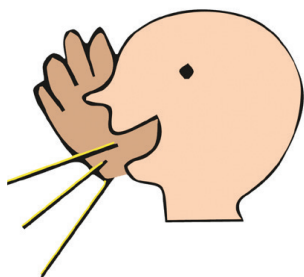
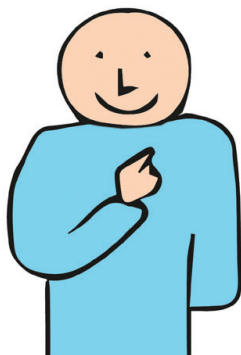
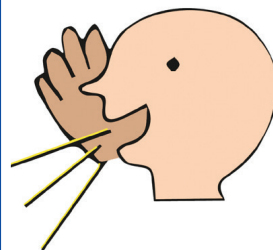
IS



YOUR



NAME



Simplified Version of The Call of Samuel

(Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19)

It's nighttime, and Samuel is in his bed. Through the window, he sees the moon and the stars. All is calm.

Samuel and Eli, the elderly priest, live in the Temple. During the day, a lot of people go there to pray or to speak with Eli. But during the night, there's no one except Samuel and Eli, each of whom sleeps in his own room. The entire Temple is silent.

All of a sudden, Samuel hears a voice call, "Samuel, Samuel!" It's God speaking, but Samuel doesn't know this. He gets up quickly and runs to Eli, saying, "Here I am, did you call me?" But Eli didn't call him, so he sends Samuel back to bed.

Once again, God calls, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel jumps up and

runs to Eli, repeating, "Here I am, did you call me?"

Surprised, Eli says, "No, Samuel, I didn't call your name. Go back to bed."

God calls Samuel a third time, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel gets up again and runs to Eli. "Here I am, did you call me?" he asks.

Suddenly, Eli understands that God is the one calling Samuel. He tells him, "Samuel, go back to sleep, but if you hear the voice again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!'"

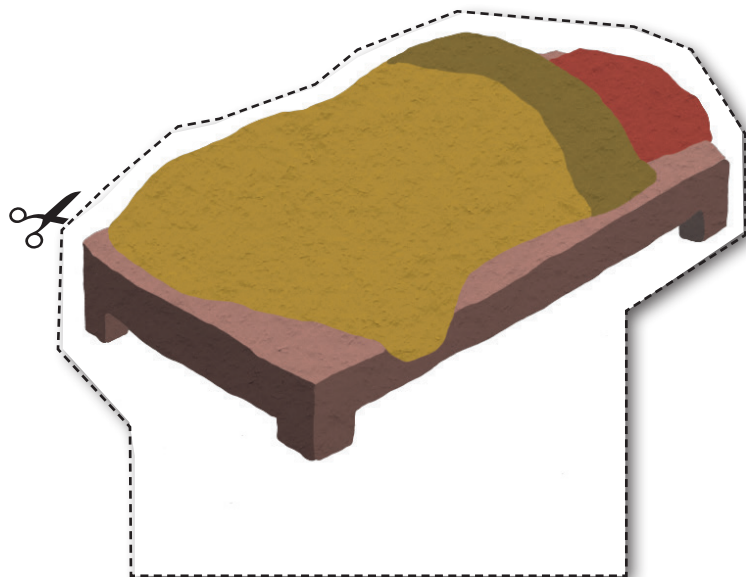
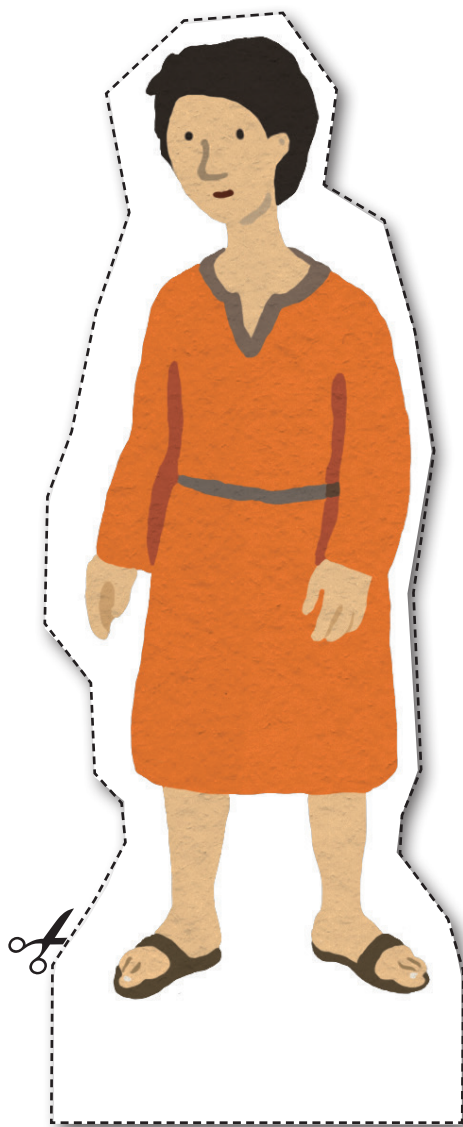
Samuel goes back to bed, and once again he hears, "Samuel, Samuel!"

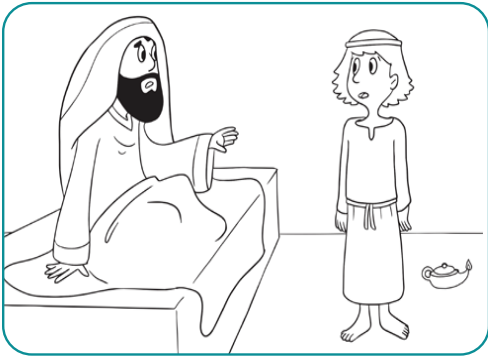
Still in bed, he responds in a whisper, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!" After that, God often spoke to Samuel.

Cut-Outs (to be used as visual aids)

SAMUEL/ELI/LAMP/BED to accompany the story of Samuel's call

- Cut out the illustrations, keeping the base of each drawing.
- If you'd like them to stand, create a prop from modeling clay. You can also attach tape and a popsicle stick to make stick puppets out of the cut-outs.
- Move the cut-outs while telling the story.





This Reader's Theater has five parts. The instructor will invite five students to read the story, following the assigned numbers. For the ideal "chorus" effect, the readers will be spaced out in the room. Invite these five children to read without looking away from the page to keep a steady rhythm. The others will listen attentively.

5 parts: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- 1 Eli.
 - 2 My name is Eli.
 - 3 I am the high priest at the Temple of Shiloh.
 - 4 I've been here for a long time.
 - 5 Very long.
 - 2 Very long.
 - 1 I'm old.
 - 3 My eyesight's not as good as it used to be.
 - 4 I'm so tired.
 - 1 I'm so old.
 - 5 I don't hear God's voice anymore.
 - 2 Does God always speak to us?
 - 4 I don't hear him anymore!
 - 1 Silence from God.
 - 5 Silence at night.
 - 3 Silence...
 - 2 I'm going to bed!
- pause
- 1 Samuel.
 - 4 My name is Samuel.
 - 2 I'm a servant of the Lord in the Temple.
 - 5 I've been here since I was very little.
 - 3 For a very long time.
 - 4 It feels like forever.
 - 2 With Eli.

- 5 I don't know the Lord.
 - 1 I've never heard his voice.
 - 3 Does God really speak to us?
 - 1 Silence from God.
 - 4 Silence at night.
 - 2 Silence...
 - 5 I'm going to bed!
- pause

- 3 Eli is in his room.
 - 2 Samuel is in the Lord's Temple.
 - 5 Eli is alone in the silence.
 - 4 Samuel is close to God.
 - 1 The lamp is on.
 - 3 The lamp of God.
 - 2 God's light.
 - 1 God's presence among men.
- pause

- 4 It's nighttime.
- 3 The night is silent.
- 5 Eli is sleeping.
- 1 A voice whispers in the darkness...
- 5 Samuel!
- 2 Yes?
- 1 Samuel!
- 3 Who's speaking?
- 1 Samuel!
- 5 I'm here!

- 4 Anyone there?
- 3 Who's speaking?
- 2 Eli!
- 4 Eli!
- 1 Eli, are you asleep?
- 5 Did you call my name?
- 3 No!
- 4 No, it wasn't me.
- 2 Samuel, my little one, go to bed.
- 3 It's nighttime.
- 4 The night is silent.

- 1 In the silence, a voice rings out...
- 2 Samuel!
- 3 Samuel!
- 4 Yes, I'm here!
- 5 Who's speaking?
- 4 Eli, are you calling my name?

- 2 No, I already told you, it's not me!
 - 5 Samuel, my little one, go to bed.
 - 3 It's still nighttime.
 - 4 In the silence of the night.
 - 1 Samuel falls asleep by the lamp of God.
- pause

- 5 Samuel! Samuel!
 - 3 Eli, I'm here!
 - 2 What do you want? I didn't call your name.
 - 4 But I heard you say, "Samuel, Samuel..."
- pause

- 1 Eli thinks about this.
- 3 Who speaks at night?
- 2 Hmm, the lamp of God has been lit all night.
- 5 What if it was God?
- 4 What if God was speaking in the silence of the night...
- 2 Samuel, go back to bed.
- 1 And if you hear your name.
- 5 Get up and say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!"
- 1 It's the Lord who is calling you.
- 3 Listen to his voice.
- 2 Open your heart to his words.
- 4 The Lord calls.
- 2 The lamp shines in the darkness.
- 5 The Lord is there.
- 1 The flame brings warmth to Samuel's heart.
- 3 Samuel, have courage!
- 5 I am your Lord!
- 2 You are my child, and I love you.
- 1 Samuel, listen to my words.
- 5 Bring my Word to mankind.
- 3 Samuel, I will be with you every day of your life!
- 4 Samuel grew up.
- 5 The Lord was with him.
- 1 Samuel, prophet of the Lord!
- 3 Servant of God's Covenant with mankind.

Make a photocopy of the luggage tags on cardstock paper. Cut out each tag, fold it in half, and glue the sides together. Use a hole puncher to make a hole in the tag, and attach a string to the end.

WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO ADVENTURE!

NAME :

.....

PARISH :

.....



WHO IS HELPING YOU HEAR GOD'S CALL?



WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO ADVENTURE!

NAME:

.....

PARISH:

.....



WHO IS HELPING YOU HEAR GOD'S CALL?



