

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.

