



## **Calling Samuel**

### **Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)**

Welcome to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is that we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

### **The Pilots Prayer**

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

### **Fun together**

Get two volunteers and put a blindfold on one of them. Get the children/young people to create an obstacle course using chairs, tables, themselves. Get the non-blindfolded volunteer to direct the blindfolded volunteer through the course. First, try with everyone being quiet, then change volunteers and get everyone else to try put them off by giving their own instructions. Try this a couple of times with different people.

Point of the game: Sometimes it is really easy to hear the messages we want to hear but often, with busy lives and other things going on, we need to listen more carefully.



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### The Big Story - Calling Samuel (1 Samuel 1-3)

What's in the bag:

- 2x grey wigs
- 2x pillows
- 2x rugs
- A crown

Get 5 volunteers

*[Ask one of the volunteers to be Hannah]*

Reader 1: A long time ago a woman called Hannah was unable to have children. One day she went to the temple really upset.

*[Get Hannah to pretend to cry]*

Reader 2: STOP, HOLD ON! She's not old enough to be Hannah - she was getting on a bit!

*[Put a grey wig on Hannah's head]*

Reader 1: The priest there was called Eli.

*[Get the second volunteer to be Eli and direct him to comfort Hannah]*

Reader 2: STOP, HOLD ON! He is not old enough to be Eli - he was getting on a bit.

*[put a grey wig on Eli's head]*

Reader 1: Eli saw Hannah praying, and told that God had heard her prayer. Sure enough, Hannah did give birth to a son some time later. She named him Samuel, which means 'heard by God'.

*[Get the third volunteer to be Samuel]*

When Samuel was a few years old, Hannah sent him to Eli, so he could help in the temple as a gift to God. When Samuel was still a young boy, one night well past bed time....



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Reader 2: Shouldn't they be in bed then?

*[Give Samuel and Eli a pillow and blanket each, get them to go sleep in different places]*

So Samuel, this young boy, wakes up because he heard someone calling his name.

Reader 2: *(SHOUTS)* Samuel, Samuel!

Reader 1: Samuel thought it was Eli calling, so he got up to go and see him. Eli said it wasn't him calling Samuel's name, so Samuel went back to bed. Again, he heard someone calling his name.

Reader 2: *(SHOUTS)* Samuel, Samuel!

Reader 1: Again, Samuel thought it was Eli calling, so he got up to go and see him.

Reader 2: Well, it must have been him this time? Was Eli playing a trick?

Reader 1: No, he wasn't. Again Eli said it wasn't him calling Samuel's name, so Samuel went back to bed. A third time Samuel heard the calling.

Reader 2: *(SHOUTS)* Samuel, Samuel!

Reader 1: By now Samuel was really confused when he went to see Eli again only to be told it wasn't him yet again.

Reader 2: Yeah, I wouldn't have been impressed - I need my beauty sleep, you know!

Reader 1: Eventually, Eli realised that it was God who was calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed (*pillow/blanket*) and when he heard the voice calling again, he should say, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reader 2: You mean it was God talking to Samuel all along?

Reader 1: Yes, God had a very important message for Samuel – the first of many.

Samuel grew up learning how to listen to God; he became the last judge of Israel and was a real blessing to his people as someone who led by example. When the people demanded a king for the nation, God told Samuel to choose Saul.



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*[Get a volunteer to be Saul and give Samuel a crown to place on Saul's head]*

But after a while, Saul stopped listening to God and did things his own way. God then directed Samuel to make a young shepherd named David a future king.

*[get a volunteer to be David and get Samuel to take the crown from Saul's head and place it on David's head]*

Reader 2: What – that was the same David, who fought a giant. WOW!

Reader 1: Samuel learned how to listen to God; he built up an amazing relationship with Him, and importantly, followed and did what he heard God saying to him. He was a small boy when he started his journey, which shows that we don't have to wait until we're older to be able to follow God and do His work. We can do this whatever our age.

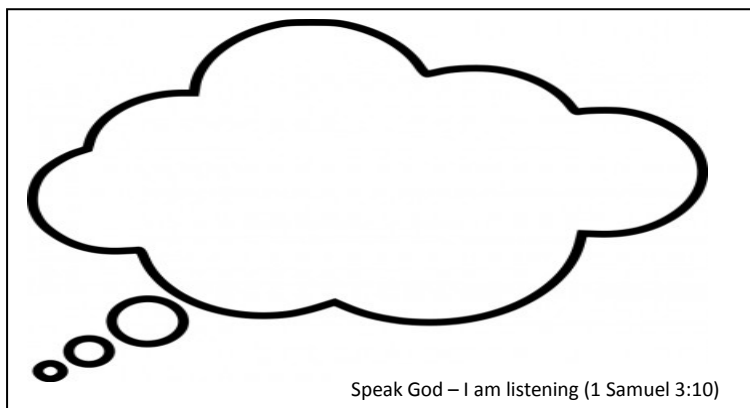
Reader 2: That's incredible. I wonder, what it is like to hear God speak?

### Creative adventure

For this adventure you will need:

- Cheap plain pillowcase (look at places like Wilko, Tesco, Ikea, Poundland etc £2-3 for 2)
- Fabric pens or sharpies (in mixed colours)
- Piece of cardboard for each pillowcase

Give each of the children a pillowcase and place the piece of card inside to stop bleeding of the pens through the fabric. Get the children to think about what they would ask God if they could have a conversation with him, and what they think he would say to them. Get the young people to create a thought bubble on the pillowcase (you could do this in advance if you have a younger group) and get them to write or draw a picture in the bubble of what God would say to them. You could also write the quotation/reference on the bottom.





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Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder how you might hear God?

I wonder what you would ask God if you could speak to him?

I wonder what God might like to say to you?

### The Adventure Map

In this first session explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.

Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one of the pillowcases of the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and the start of the journey. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

### Walking the Way

**This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.**

For the Younger:

Go into the box and bring out FOFA the bear. Introduce the young people to FOFA.

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't



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very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older:

Welcome to FOFA cam! This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: find somewhere, something or someone that helps you listen for God

### Adventurers Go!

So today we have seen how a simple lad heard a strange voice that turned out to be God speaking to him. It must have been difficult for him to believe what was happening, and even more difficult to do the things that God wanted him to do. However, through his faith in God, it took him on to great things.

### Prayers (choose one/both)

Dear God,

When we are awake or asleep,

When we are busy or just chilling,

When we are working or playing,

Help us to know you are with us and to listen to what you are saying to us

Help us never to feel that we are too small to make a big difference

**Amen**



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### Active prayer

Lie down and pretend you are sleeping very quietly

Concentrate on your breathing, think about how God knows you and loves you from head to toe.

Now stand up. Stretch as big as you can, every part of your body.

Think about how God has plans for you, a special job for you, hope for you and how He fills you with life.

Now jump in the air and shout "I'm listening, God!"

**Amen**

### End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

**We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.**

**Adventurers go! Amen**



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### What you need for this session

- Cheap plain pillowcase (look at places like Wilko, Tesco, Ikea, Poundland etc £2-3 for 2)  
One for each child.
- Fabric pens or sharpies (in mixed colours)
- Piece of cardboard for each pillowcase

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
During session	Latex wig for Eli	Check for latex intolerance with children	Check consent forms and ask participant if they are intolerant	
During session	Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes	Consider offering protective clothing	Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens.	