

WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Step three,
listen to God.

THE BIBLE

God Calls Samuel: I Samuel 3:1-10; 19-21;
Proverbs 2:1-5

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **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)
 - "Pray" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
 - "Something Good" (Gateway Kids Worship)

ACTIVITY | Nailed It! Mission Im-pasta-ble

- Hey, everyone! Welcome back to The Plate It Cooking Show! We have been learning about the prophets in the Bible and how we can prep ourselves for doing life with God. I think it's a tea-riffic time to get into the "Nailed It!" segment of the show, don't you? I'll have do my best to make my food look as close to the model as possible.
- **What course of a meal comes after the appetizer?** The entrée! Not to toot my own *ham*, but entrées are my *jam*. Let's see what entrée I'll be plating today.
- *[Carefully lift the decorated box to reveal the model spaghetti and meatballs arrangement.]*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, place the prepared entrée or picture model on the table and cover it with the decorative box. Place the ingredients box on the table. "Build" your food behind the ingredients box to build up suspense. Have kids only see you doing things like lifting the spaghetti noodles high up or examining the meatballs. Have fun, and purposefully don't "nail it!" For example, be minimal with the sauce or lay out the noodles horribly.
- Let's see how we did today. Nailed it!
- A dish like this is usually the main course. What we're talking about today is one of the main things we need in our relationship with God, in addition to trusting and talking to God.

ACTIVITY | What's that Noise?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a kitchen sound seemingly out of nowhere. Then continue playing through as many sounds as time allows, and see how many the kids can guess correctly! Consider playing the sounds in order of what you deem easiest to identify to hardest. See if they catch on to what the sounds have in common (e.g., kitchen or cooking sounds)!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids from the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community, describe clues about the object itself rather than playing a sound.
- Whoa, did you hear that? Raise your hand if you heard that noise. Hmm, let's listen and see if we can guess what that sound was!
- Today's Bible story will show us that sometimes it's more important to simply listen!

QUESTION | Listening vs. Hearing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a poster board or dry erase board available. Label half the board with "Listening" and the other half with "Hearing." As you ask the question, write out the kids' answers under the corresponding heading.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use the words "receiving" versus "processing" for Deaf/Hard of Hearing kids.
- **What is the difference between listening and hearing?**
- Hearing is being able to detect sound. Listening requires more focus and paying attention to what you are hearing in order to understand it. So listening is not just about what sounds you can recognize with your ears.
- For example, let's say the oven timer goes off. Beep!
 - If you *hear* the sound, that just means that your ears told your brain that there was a noise.
 - If you *listen* to the sound, then you'll know that whatever you're cooking in the oven is ready and needs to be taken out so it doesn't burn!
- **Can you think of some more examples where you need to listen – and not simply hear – something?**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

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! Today, I have not one, not two, but three sous chefs to help me with the "ingredients" for this Bible story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose three volunteers (sous chefs) that you have prepared ahead of time to help you tell the story from 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–21. Split the group into three sections, each led by one sous chef. Assign each group one of the poster boards with words displaying what to say during the story. When these phrases come up in the story, point to the corresponding sous chef to signal them to rally their group.
- Last week, we learned about how a woman named Hannah was very sad because she couldn't have a baby. She took her sorrow to God and talked to God about it. She prayed for a son, and she promised that she would give her son to serve God for his whole life. Hannah was so happy to find out that God remembered her prayer! God gave her a son who would become one of God's prophets!
 - **Who remembers what a prophet's job was?** A prophet was someone chosen by God to speak for God to the people who needed to hear God's message.
- **Do you remember what Hannah named her baby?** That's right, Samuel! Our story today is about Samuel! As with all things, time flies by, and Samuel has grown into a young boy. Let's find out what happens during this part of Samuel's life.
- [Read verses 1–3.] Samuel grew up in the temple and served God under the direction of the priest, Eli. But one night, he heard a voice say.
 - [Point to sous chef 1 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Samuel!"]
- Samuel thought Eli was calling him so he ran to Eli's room and said,
 - [Point to sous chef 2 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "Here I am. You called me."]
- But Eli did not. Eli was sleeping. So Eli said,
 - [Point to sous chef 3 and have them hold up their poster board to rally their section to yell, "I did not call. Go back and lie down."]
- Samuel was pretty sure there was no one else in the temple that could be talking to him. And then he heard it again! [Point to sous chefs 1, 2, and 3 in order again.]
- After this happened three times, Eli realized that it was God talking to Samuel. So he told him, the next time he heard the voice, to say,
 - [Motion to all three sous chefs to turn their poster over. Have everyone say the sentence out loud together, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."]
- Samuel heard God's voice for the first time that night. He had never *been* in that situation before. But after this night, Samuel became *berry* good at listening to God and reading God's Word. As he grew up, everyone knew Samuel to be God's prophet.

BIG IDEA | Step three, listen to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the Big Idea “plate” according to the instructions in your Shop & Prep list. 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.
- If you asked a server questions about the food on the menu but didn’t listen to their answers, you wouldn’t have the information you needed to make a food choice!
- It’s the same with God. We can talk to God and ask questions about anything, but we have to take the next step of listening to God in order to prepare ourselves for our life with God. That’s why we can’t skip **step three, listen to God!**

VIDEO | Plate It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).

ACTIVITY | Egg Timer Hunt

- Let’s have some fun eggs-ercising our listening skills!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Call up as many kids as you have timers. Announce that their goal is to listen for and find the timers before the timer goes off. Have them turn around and close their eyes. Enlist adult volunteers to help hide a few egg timers around the room, turning the timers to a predetermined time. Optional: Time how long it takes them to find the timers. Do a few more rounds with new groups of kids to see if they come up with new strategies for listening and finding the timers faster.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** For preteens, add in additional sound effects to make it more challenging to hear the egg timer. This could lead to discussion about discerning God’s voice.
- Being able to listen carefully is an eggs-cellent skill to have, eggs-pecially when it comes to listening to God. God is the wisest and most loving, and God wants to guide us in how to live for God. So, an important step in following God is **step three, listen to God!**

OBJECT LESSON | What’s Poppin’

- **Have you ever been around someone cooking popcorn? How do you know when the popcorn is done?** You hear lots and lots of popping, and then the popping slows down until you hear about one pop every few seconds.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the popcorn popping media file for the kids ([audio](#) or [video](#) clip from 1:50–2:04).
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Alternatively, if you can get access to the game, “[Pop the Pig](#),” you might want to play this with your kids as it’s a great game to learn about listening, as the “pop” sound lets kids know that the game is over.
- It’s su-pear important to listen carefully! If you get distracted and stop paying attention to the slowing of the pops, what happens? It overcooks and burns. You’ve missed the timing!

- Paying attention to the popcorn popping is similar to how we need to pay attention to what God has to say to us – otherwise we might miss it completely! Tuning in to what God wants to say to you each day is so much *better* than just *popping* in every now and then. So, every day this week, let's make it a point to not forget **step three, listen to God.**

BIBLE | Proverbs 2:1–5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Proverbs 2:1–5 for the kids.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide the following visuals to accompany the points in this module: a book for “read,” a person with a thinking bubble or picture of brain for “think,” prayer hands or picture of someone praying for “pray,” and a picture of ears inside a heart to emphasize “listen” with understanding.*
- How can you store up God's commands within you? Reading the Bible is one way we can listen to God because it literally is God's Word. But you may still be wondering how to do this.
- Here's a simple way to take what God says in the Bible and turn it into a more meaningful time of listening to God.
 - First, **read** God's words out loud. What does the verse say?
 - Second, **think** about what God's words could mean. What is it saying to you? How is it connecting with you?
 - Third, **pray** about what you heard. What can you say to God about what you just read and thought about? “Call out for insight and cry out for understanding.” (verse 3)
 - Fourth, **listen longer.** Look at the words for a longer time than you normally would. Look for God in it. “If you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” (verses 4–5)
- But remember, like we talked about earlier, listening is not just hearing what God tells you – it's doing it!
- Jesus was the greatest example of listening to God. Not only did he spend a lot of time *listening* for God's instructions, he *listened* to God by doing it. Jesus obeyed and listened to God until the very end, and we can do the same!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Recipe Card, Step Three

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the recipe card aloud for the kids. Review the Big Idea and have the kids fill in the blanks on their recipe card. Then invite them to have a time of reflection and write down their response to the prompt.*
- **Step three, listen to God.** What is one thing you will do this week to help you listen to God more?

RESPONSE | Bible Story Refill

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Re-read 1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–21. Consider practicing the structure of read, think, pray, and listen longer with the kids.
- **What is something new you tuned in to while listening to God's Word a second time?**
- Sometimes we need to hear God speak to us multiple times before we can really listen to God. No matter how many times it takes remember **step three, listen to God.**

MEMORY VERSE | Spoon Catapult Verse Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Review the verse with the kids, reciting it a few times. Show kids how to use a spoon to catapult a ping pong ball that has a word or phrase of the verse on it. The kids will have to launch the ping pong balls into a bucket. Once they have collected all the word balls, they can try to put the verse in order and recite it. Feel free to make it into a relay race.
 - ✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider using a food item in place of ping pong balls, like marshmallows! Then have each cup have a word on it and see if they can launch all of the marshmallows into the cups (or mugs, simulating hot chocolate).

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you that you are always near, ready to speak to us. We're listening! Help us to understand you and your plans for us more as we listen. Amen,

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Who did Samuel think was calling his name? Who was actually calling Samuel?**
- **What did Eli tell Samuel to do when God called him the next time?**
- **How did God continue to reveal who God is to Samuel?**
- **Read Proverbs 2:1. How do you store up things people say? How does storing up things God says help us?**
- **Have you ever heard God speak to you?**
- **Who is someone in your life who can help you recognize and respond to God's voice?**
- **How can you make space to listen to God without distractions?**

ACTIVITY | Recipe for Listening

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach the kids how to fold their paper into a small book. (Learn [here!](#)) Brainstorm ways we can listen to God. (For example, through the Bible, through prayer, through the Holy Spirit, through other Christians, and through God's creation.) Invite the kids to decorate their books and write or draw on the pages the ways they can listen to God.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide devices with internet access and find a review of a local restaurant they know (Google or Yelp are good sources for this). Have them read a few positive and critical reviews. Do they agree with the assessment? What could the restaurant do to “listen” to the suggestions made by reviewers? What are ways we can listen to God?

- Talking to God is very important, but listening to God is equally or maybe even more important! There are many things God wants to tell us and share with us as we walk with God. God wants to guide us, comfort us, and encourage us, so it’s so important to remember **step three, listen to God!**

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month’s memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Ephesians2-10.
- Let’s practice this month’s memory verse together!
- **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**