

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 11. Listening to God

**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 1 Samuel 3: 1-10



The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Psalm 81:8, John 10:4 and 27

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

It is so easy to hear someone's voice but not to listen. To hear, sound waves enter your ear and set up vibrations, which sends a signal to the brain. Listening is when you tune in to the noise the brain has picked up and you literally hang on every word spoken – you concentrate on what is said.

This is the problem that had been taking place in the previous chapter, when the High Priest, Eli, and his two sons had refused to listen to God's warning about their behaviour in the Temple.

In this passage, we have one of the most tender lessons in the Bible. Samuel did not know God's voice, so he assumed Eli had been speaking. Eli, realising that God wanted to speak to Samuel, tells him how to respond. Can you imagine how Samuel must have been feeling? At that time, he was about six years old and God had a message for him. This message was to warn Eli and his sons again that God was about to take action against them. God selected Samuel, despite his young age, because He knew that Samuel would listen.



Samuel was a quick learner. He knew God's voice, heard God's voice and **listened** – how about you?

### Reflections:

- What actions could you take to know God better?
- How much time do you spend listening for God?
- How do you recognise the voice of God?
- How do you 'tune in' when listening to God?
- How do you respond when God speaks to you?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

