

## **Teacher Preparation and Notes**

### **1. Preparing your heart for class time:**

At KCBS we believe that the best way to prepare for bringing God's Word to the children is by preparing your own heart with prayer. Please take time to pray over each lesson and each student that you will be blessed with during this session of Kids For Christ. Please read through the following notes and tips and be sure to read through each week's lesson ahead of time.

### **2. Class Time Activities:**

- a. Welcoming Students- We want to make sure every child feels welcome and included when coming to Kids For Christ. Please pray that your own heart would be filled with excitement, joy and most of all love for each child that walks in. Name tags for children are recommended each session so that each child can be called by name.
- b. During Bible Story Time- Have students sit in a specific area of the room with enough personal space for comfort. Bring your Bible and have it close by so the students can associate what they are hearing with the Bible. Be sure to make the Bible story interactive and engaging by using props, skits, puppets, posters, etc. We have provided optional visuals and activities for you.
- c. Application- After the Bible story is over, please review what happened in the story to make sure students understand the events. Then guide a discussion with the students using the questions provided for you. Please remember, Kids For Christ is a non-denominational organization. Follow the application questions to ensure denominational discussion does not develop.
- d. Prayer/Closing- Make sure to incorporate prayer time at the end of your session. Be sure to model and explain the basic steps of being respectful during prayer time. If students are comfortable with prayer, make sure to involve them by asking several of them to end in prayer or do a circle prayer so that everyone receives a chance to pray.

### **3. Conversing with students and addressing Salvation:**

- a. Before you begin story time or any other adult "talk time" make sure students are seated comfortably and can see you clearly. Remove distractions to the best of your ability.
- b. Tell the story and speak to students in your normal voice but speak with confidence and enjoyment. Speak distinctly and slowly. Practice reading the story and the application questions prior to class time so that you can tie in appropriate emotion when the time is right. Changing your tone, volume, and speed can help students understand the emotion behind the story. Use repetition as a tool to keep students interested and to better comprehend the lessons. Enhance your speaking with physical expressions or ask students to display how they feel during a certain aspect of the story. Make sure to keep conversations and story time to an age appropriate length (Quick rule of thumb is one minute of story for each year of a child's age).

- c. Do not let one student dominate the conversation-instead evenly distribute attention and talk time for students. Remember to listen! Children love to have an adult legitimately be interested in what they are saying.
- d. Make sure and stay on the child's level. Pay special attention to the "life focus" and address it multiple times throughout each lesson.
- e. Modeling is the best way to have students act the way you want them to act. Be kind and patient in all words and actions.
- f. Salvation may come up at any lesson. Let the Holy Spirit lead the lessons and remember these tips: Salvation phrases such as "born again" or "asking Jesus into your heart" are difficult concepts and far beyond most young students' understanding. Instead, focus on how God makes people part of His family. Say something like, "We can ask Jesus to be our Savior and then we become part of God's family." Share this message any time a child seems interested and keep in mind that many times it can be more effective on an individual basis. Our goal is to lay a solid foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth and a personal relationship with Jesus.

4. Student engagement tips and how to address behavioral problems:

- a. Keeping students active, interested and involved in the lesson is the best way to keep students behaving appropriately. Make sure to spend some preparation time on the lesson and transition to other activities.
- b. Another great thing to do is to incorporate any universals that the school already has in place for students. For example: if a school uses the "peace walk" students are already familiar with the rule of walking down the hallways with their peace sign up in the air. Continuing an already familiar strategy helps eliminate confusion and sets the right atmosphere for learning.
- c. Be conscious of your requests. Do not ask students to sit still for an extended amount of time. Remember that students have already sat through an entire day of school and need to get some energy out! This after school program needs to be centered on fun and energetic activities.
- d. KCBS uses positive reinforcement tactics to steer behavior. Suggestions would be positive words of encouragement, hugs, high-fives, group recognition, candy, prizes, positive comments to parents, written words of thanks and praise, etc.
- e. Any consistent problems need to be addressed with Coordinators. Do not discipline or embarrass any student! After verbal warnings or personal conversations with students, any continuing issues need to be handled by the Coordinator at your site.

## **Lesson #1**

### **Samuel: The Boy Prophet**

**Bible Story:** The Lord calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

**Life Focus:** We need to listen for God and be ready to serve Him.

**Kidspiration of the Week:** Abigail Lupi, "CareGirlz"

**Memory Verse:** 1 Samuel 3:10b

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

**Goals:** By the end of the session, the children should:

1. Discover that God knows each of us by name.
2. Realize that God speaks to us in many ways.
3. Recognize that children can serve God too.

**Visual:** Week 1: Samuel Hears God's Voice (See Poster Ring Set)

#### **Teacher Prep:**

Welcome and thank you for being a part of the Kids For Christ "Kidspiration" Curriculum. During this session, we will help students understand that each of us are called to listen and obey God's plans for our lives from the time we are first created. No one is too young (or too old) to make a difference for Christ. That is one of the beautiful mysteries about the God we serve; He not only has a plan for our lives, but He uses us in bigger ways than we could ever imagine. Throughout the next 5 weeks, we will explore some of the kids in the Bible: Samuel, King Josiah, Miriam, Daniel's friends and even Jesus himself. Each of these stories feature those that are young in age but mighty in faith. We can learn so much from the simple faith and obedience these children showed. We will also look at modern stories of kids that are changing the world-one day at a time. Our goal throughout these 5 weeks is to accurately inspire kids to make a difference for Christ. Why Wait?! There is no need...God can use each of us mightily exactly where we are in life to change circumstances and meet the needs of others. Our desire is to plant a deep seed with these lessons that teach kids to spend their entire lives doing what God has called each of them to do: Serve Him!

Our journey begins with a great prophet, Samuel. What a great example of a young child being raised from birth to serve and obey God. Our story begins when Samuel hears God calling him out by name. God does the same for us...He knows each of us by name and has a plan if we ready ourselves to simply listen. Thank you for being ready to serve God by serving these children.

## Welcome Activities and Bible Story Time

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible (Place next to you or on display where children can see the source of the story)
- Lesson Introduction (Paper, clipboards, pencils)
- Poster Set: Week 1: Samuel hears God's Voice and Kidspiration #1: Abigail Lupi
- See "Reinforcing Activities" below for further optional materials needed

Before students come in, write on the chalkboard or display paper the memory verse:  
"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." –1 Samuel 3:10b

### LESSON INTRO:

#### Listen to Draw Activity

Have students partner up and sit back to back on the floor. One of the partners will be looking at the front of the room and the other at the back. Draw or place a picture at the front of the room and have the partner facing it describe the picture to the person whose back is turned to it. The person facing the back of the room, must then draw the picture using only their teammates verbal description. When finished, they can compare to see how well they listened and obeyed their partner's instructions.

### BIBLE STORY:

**\*OPTION 1 (Read with students following along in Extreme Faith Bibles, "fill in the blank" option available on the following page.)**

#### The Lord Speaks to Samuel

**3** <sup>1-2</sup> Samuel served the Lord by helping Eli the priest, who was by that time almost blind. In those days, the Lord hardly ever spoke directly to people, and he did not appear to them in dreams very often. But one night, Eli was asleep in his room, <sup>3</sup> and Samuel was sleeping on a mat near the sacred chest in the Lord's house. They had not been asleep very long <sup>4</sup> when the Lord called out Samuel's name. "Here I am!" Samuel answered. <sup>5</sup> Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" "I didn't call you," Eli answered. "Go back to bed." Samuel went back.

<sup>6</sup> Again the Lord called out Samuel's name. Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you want?" Eli told him, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to sleep."

<sup>7</sup> The Lord had not spoken to Samuel before, and Samuel did not recognize the voice. <sup>8</sup> When the Lord called out his name for the third time, Samuel went to Eli again and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" Eli finally realized that it was the Lord who was speaking to Samuel. <sup>9</sup> So he said, "Go back and lie down! If someone speaks to you again, answer, 'I'm listening, Lord. What do you want me to do?'" Once again Samuel went back and lay down.

**10** The Lord then stood beside Samuel and called out as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!" "I'm listening," Samuel answered. "What do you want me to do?" **11** The Lord said: Samuel, I am going to do something in Israel that will shock everyone who hears about it! **12** I will punish Eli and his family, just as I promised. **13** He knew that his sons refused to respect me, [\[b\]](#) and he let them get away with it, even though I said I would punish his family forever. **14** I warned Eli that sacrifices or offerings could never make things right! His family has done too many disgusting things. **15** The next morning, Samuel got up and opened the doors to the Lord's house. He was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said. **16** But Eli told him, "Samuel, my boy, come here!" "Here I am," Samuel answered. **17** Eli said, "What did God say to you? Tell me everything. I pray that God will punish you terribly if you don't tell me every word he said!" **18** Samuel told Eli everything. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord, and he will do what's right." **19** As Samuel grew up, the Lord helped him and made everything Samuel said come true. **20** From the town of Dan in the north to the town of Beersheba in the south, everyone in the country knew that Samuel was truly the Lord's prophet. **21** The Lord often appeared to Samuel at Shiloh and told him what to say.

---

## STUDENT COPY: The Lord Speaks to Samuel

**3** <sup>1-2</sup> Samuel served the Lord by helping \_\_\_\_\_ the priest, who was by that time almost blind. In those days, the Lord hardly ever spoke directly to people, and he did not appear to them in dreams very often. But one night, Eli was asleep in his room, <sup>3</sup> and Samuel was sleeping on a mat near the sacred chest in the Lord's house. They had not been asleep very long <sup>4</sup> when the Lord called out Samuel's name. "\_\_\_\_\_"! Samuel answered. <sup>5</sup> Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" "I didn't call you," Eli answered. "Go back to bed." Samuel went back. <sup>6</sup> Again the Lord called out Samuel's name. Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you want?" Eli told him, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." <sup>7</sup> The \_\_\_\_\_ had not spoken to Samuel before, and Samuel did not recognize the voice. <sup>8</sup> When the Lord called out his name for the third time, Samuel went to Eli again and said, "Here I am. What do you want?" Eli finally \_\_\_\_\_ that it was the Lord who was speaking to Samuel. <sup>9</sup> So he said, "Go back and lie down! If someone speaks to you again, answer, 'I'm listening, Lord. What do you want me to do?'" Once again Samuel went back and \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>10</sup> The Lord then stood beside Samuel and called out as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!" "\_\_\_\_\_" Samuel answered. "What do you want me to do?" <sup>11</sup> The Lord said: Samuel, I am going to do something in Israel that will shock everyone who hears about it! <sup>12</sup> I will punish Eli and his family, just as I promised. <sup>13</sup> He knew that his sons refused to respect me, and he let them get away with it, even though I said I would punish his family forever. <sup>14</sup> I warned Eli that sacrifices or offerings could never make things right! His family has done too many disgusting things. <sup>15</sup> The next morning, Samuel got up and opened the doors to the \_\_\_\_\_'s house. He was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said. <sup>16</sup> But Eli told him, "Samuel, my boy, \_\_\_\_\_" "Here I am," Samuel answered. <sup>17</sup> Eli said, "What did God say to you? Tell me everything. I pray that God will punish you terribly if you don't tell me every word he said!" <sup>18</sup> Samuel told Eli \_\_\_\_\_. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord, and he will do what's right." <sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the Lord helped him and made everything Samuel said \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>20</sup> From the town of Dan in the north to the town of Beersheba in the south, everyone in the country knew that Samuel was truly the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>21</sup> The Lord often appeared to Samuel at \_\_\_\_\_ and told him what to say.

---

**\*OPTION 2 (Students' Script to act out the story)**

**Reader's Theater Script Below for**

**"The Lord Calls Samuel"**

**Characters: (3 student parts total)- Hannah, Samuel, Eli**

### **Student Script: "The Lord Calls Samuel"**

HANNAH: *Hello! My name is Hannah. We are here to tell you a story today...the story of my son, Samuel. (Point to Samuel)*

SAMUEL: *Hi everyone! (Wave)*

HANNAH: *You see, a long time ago I made a promise to God. If he gave me a baby boy, I promised that my son would be raised up in the church to serve God for his entire life.*

SAMUEL: *God granted my mom's prayer and gave her a son...ME! (Point to yourself)*

HANNAH: *That's right. And when Sam was old enough, I took him to the local priest, Eli. (Point to Eli) Eli had served in the church a long time, and he needed someone to help him look after the temple grounds. My Samuel was a good boy and did everything he was told. He was very helpful to Eli.*

ELI: *That's correct. Samuel was a great assistant. He helped me with many tasks.*

SAMUEL: *But one night, I was sleeping in bed and I heard someone call my name. I thought it must have been Eli, so I got up and went into his room. I said to him, "Here I am. You called me?"*

ELI: *But it wasn't me. So, I told Samuel to go back to bed.*

SAMUEL: *As soon as I was drifting off to sleep again, I heard the same voice calling "Samuel!" I thought surely that is Eli calling me. So, I got up and went to him again.*

ELI: *But it still wasn't me. So, I told Samuel to go back to bed.*

SAMUEL: *This time, I went back to my bed and laid very still. I listened closely and sure enough, after a few minutes, I heard the voice call louder this time, "Samuel! Samuel!" So, I jumped out of bed and ran as fast as I could to Eli.*

ELI: *When Samuel came in again and said he heard someone calling his name, I knew it must have been God calling him. I told him to go back to bed and when he heard the voice again to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."*

SAMUEL: *I ran back to bed and listened. When I heard the voice call me again, I did as Eli told me. I said, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."*

HANNAH: *That night God told my son, Samuel, a very important message. But it didn't end there. God continued speaking to Samuel for many years. God used Samuel to deliver many important messages and do many important jobs. That night, Samuel learned to listen for God's voice and we should all do the same.*

SAMUEL: *That's right. Just as God knew my name and had important jobs for me to do, He also knows your name and calls you to do important things too.*

ELI: *Some of the ways you can listen for God are by reading your Bible and praying.*

HANNAH: *My son, Samuel, lived a very blessed life because he listened and obeyed God and God wants the same for each of His children. God wants us to listen and obey him throughout our lives.*



### **Kidspiration: Abigail Lupi**

***Our Kidspiration of the week comes from Abigail Lupi. (Hold up the Kidspiration Poster #1: Abigail Lupi.) When Abigail was just 10 years old, she went to visit a nursing home. Most of the elderly people didn't have anyone to come and visit them and they were very sad. Abigail decided to put on a show to cheer them up. The people who lived in the home were so grateful and happy, she decided that she would continue performing for them on a regular basis. She started a group called "CareGirlz" where girls that are 6-13 years old come together and visit Children's Hospitals and Nursing Homes. They perform many different shows and musicals and help bring smiles to many people. Abigail uses what she loves to bring joy to others. She listened to what people needed and found a way to obey God and take care of others. Just like Samuel and Abigail, you can listen to God and serve Him, no matter what your age is!***

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

(Please remember: Kids For Christ is a non-denominational organization. Please follow these questions so that denominational discussion does not develop.)

**1. *How old do you need to be for God to use you for His good?***

- a. It doesn't matter how old you are! God can use any person at any age and at any time of their life. God used all kinds of people in the Bible for very important tasks. God called Samuel when he was just 8 years old! Ask God to use you right now in your life, no matter what your age is!

**2. *Today's example of Samuel was extraordinary in that God physically called him by name. What are some other ways that God can speak to us or give us instructions?***

- a. The Bible
- b. Prayer Time
- c. Other people around us: Pastors, Parents, Friends, other Christians, etc.
- d. Giving us discernment; the ability for us to know what is right and wrong

**3. *What does God promise for our lives if we put our trust in him and simply obey? (Have students look up the following verses)***

- a. See the following verses for examples: Deuteronomy 28:2-8; Ezekiel 34:26; Psalm 128: 1-2; Job 36:11; Psalm 112:1-9; John 14:21; John 14:23; John 15:10-11; 1 John 3:22

## REINFORCING (OPTIONAL) ACTIVITIES:

1. "Listening Walk": (Materials Needed: bandannas or handkerchiefs for ½ the class) Split the students into two groups. One group will be blindfolded, while the other group will serve as guides to help students cross the room and get to assigned chairs. Instruct students with blindfold to listen to the voice of the guides to get to the assigned finish zone. Discuss with the students how being good listeners and obeying instructions are important qualities to have.
2. "Game that reinforces listening & obeying":
  - a. Head, Shoulders, Knees...Cup (1 plastic cup for each 2 students) Have the students pair up, spread out facing each other and bend over (elbows on knees) staring down at the 1 plastic cup in between the pair of students. Have the leader shout out a series of commands that students must follow by touching. (Ex: Head, toes, hair, elbow, etc.) When the leader shouts "cup" then the students race to be the first one to touch their cup. The winners move on, finding another partner that also won. Losers sit down. Last person standing wins.
3. "Think, Pair, Share": Ask the students, "Have you ever seen or heard about someone in need? Have you noticed a problem that you could help to solve?" Have students think for 1-2 minutes by themselves. Then, have them partner up with someone else and talk about their answers. Lastly, have a few partners share with the entire group.
4. "Take Home Talk": (Materials Needed: Copies and Markers/Crayons) Samuel Obeyed God Word Search (attached).
5. "Challenge of the Week": Challenge the students to remember this week's memory verse in their daily prayer time- asking God to speak to them or reveal something about His plans for their lives.

## CLOSING PRAYER:

***God, thank you for teaching us about Samuel and Abigail. Help us to listen and obey you. Thank you for having a plan for our lives and using us to do good. Amen.***

Lesson Teacher Notes: All lessons would be a great bridge to the gospel message. If you bridge into the gospel message, please be mindful of the Kids For Christ non-denominational policy. Remember the children in your class will have a variety of church backgrounds or perhaps no biblical background at all. Any questions or comments from the children which have a denominational subject matter needs to have the following response from you: "That would be a good question to discuss with your family." Also after the gospel message is presented please follow up with this sentence: "Going to Church, praying, reading your bible, and baptism are all good things, and you can talk to your family about these things too."

# Samuel Obeyed God Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	O	D
T	I	E	D	E	U	G	I	I	M	V	E
S	P	E	A	K	O	D	D	S	R	R	E
T	U	L	O	R	E	D	T	T	I	Q	U
S	H	E	A	R	U	G	Q	E	T	V	U
A	A	O	R	E	P	R	N	N	T	E	R
M	U	M	I	N	E	R	T	E	L	I	E
U	I	S	V	I	S	I	O	N	C	I	D
E	N	W	O	R	D	T	U	P	R	I	T
L	O	R	E	C	T	E	M	D	H	T	O
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	E	Q	U	E	S
N	O	N	S	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	T

ELI  
HEAR

LISTEN  
MESSAGE

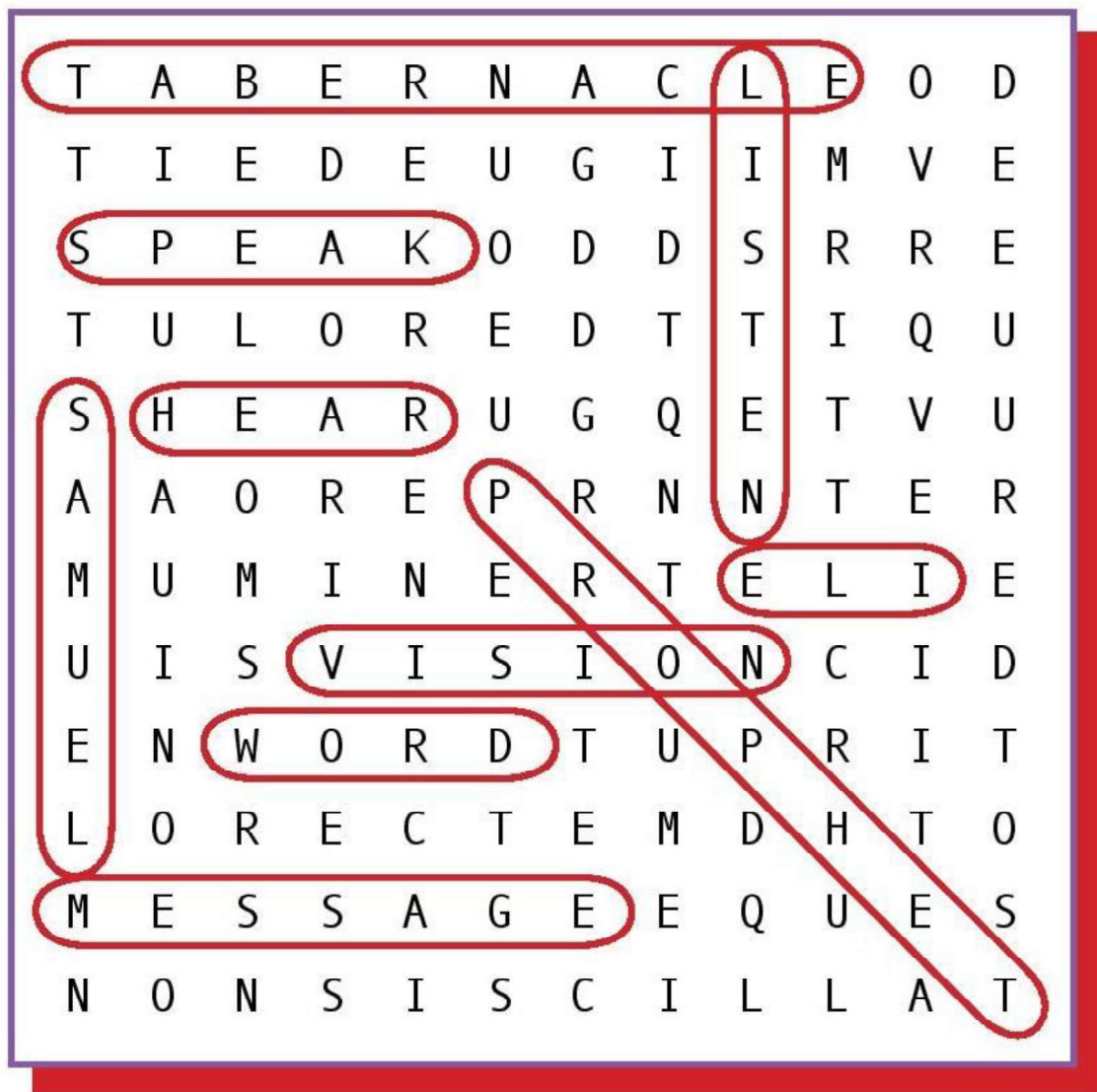
PROPHET  
SAMUEL

SPEAK  
TABERNACLE

VISION  
WORD

# Samuel Obeyed God Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



ELI  
HEAR

LISTEN  
MESSAGE

PROPHET  
SAMUEL

SPEAK  
TABERNACLE

VISION  
WORD