

Listening and Responding

We Say Yes to God's Plan for Us

Grades 3-5: Lesson 5

Goal: Students will identify ways to begin to recognize and respond to God's plan for them.

Materials needed: Bibles and a phone

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:2-10

"...the Lord called Samuel... And Eli said to Samuel, '... if He calls you, say 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" ...Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for Your servant is listening.'"

Youth Catechism: #493 [Christian prayer] is persevering and resigns itself to the will of God.

Someone who prays as a Christian ... enters into an attitude of trusting faith in the one God and Lord; at the same time he places all his hope in God- that He will hear, understand, accept and perfect him. St. John Bosco once said, "To know the will of God, three things are required: prayer, waiting, taking counsel."

Lesson:

1. Vocabulary:

Prayer: Turning ones' heart to God.

Sacrament: a visible sign of an invisible reality that imparts grace.

Grace: a share in God's life

2. Introduction:

- Hold up the phone and ask "What is this?" (a telephone) What do people do with a phone? Who might call you and what might they say? Do you ever call anyone, and what do you say to them?
- God calls us too. Does He call us on the telephone? Can you dial God in heaven and talk to Him on the phone?
- If God doesn't call us on the phone, how can we hear Him? (*List student answers on the board: i.e. Holy Mass, Sacred Scripture, sacraments, personal prayer, and other people, & events in our lives.*)

3. Instruction:

- a. This week's we've been learning about the different vocations that God could call you to. Perhaps you've been wondering which of them God wants for you? How will you know what he is asking? (*through getting to know Jesus and learning to speak and listen to Him in prayer.*)
- b. The Bible is full of stories of people speaking and listening to God. In the Old Testament, there was a woman named Hannah who was unable to have a baby. She went to the temple and prayed to God. God heard her prayers and gave her a son, whom she named Samuel. In thanksgiving to God, Hannah promised to give back to God and sent him to live with Eli, the priest at the temple.

Read 1 Samuel 3:2-10 together, in pairs or individually. Ask questions to check comprehension.

- Did God give up calling Samuel even when Samuel did not understand?
- Do you think God gives up on me and you when we don't hear him?

The main lesson in this story is that Samuel was very young and did not yet know how to listen to God's voice. He needed the help of someone older and who prayed regularly. He needed Eli's help to tell him what to do. When Samuel followed Eli's advice, he was able to speak with God face to face. You can do the same thing!

- c. There are many ways that God speaks to us: through the Mass, Scripture, Sacraments, personal prayer, and the events of our lives. These are all ways that we can hear God's voice just like Samuel. It is a gift to be able to pray to God and to hear His voice in your heart! When God speaks to our hearts we feel peace and joy deep inside.
- d. God has even given us people like Eli to help us understand what God is saying. Who are some of those people? (*your parents, priests, teachers, etc.*)
- e. As you try to listen for and answer God's call for you, it is important to stay close to Jesus in the sacraments and in prayer. God's greatest desire is to reveal to you His love and the way He is inviting you to give His love to others. Perhaps you already have an idea of how God is inviting you to follow Him. Maybe God will wait for a little while to tell you His plan for you. In either case, if you stay close to Jesus He will prepare you to follow Him in your vocation.
- f. It is a very good idea to pray every day to know your vocation and to have the courage to follow it. As a special way to remember to pray about our vocation, we are going to make a reminder that we want to give our hands and hearts to God's service. [My Hands Can Serve Activity](#)

Additional or Follow-up Activity

Provide students with a space to listen for God's voice and model for them how to pray. [Guided Meditations](#) for children about following God's call (the call of Levi, the Rich Young Man, and Peter)

4. **Homework/ A Step Beyond:** Write own prayer with at least five sentences speaking to God of your desire to hear His call for you and to follow Him.

5. **Close with prayer.**

Lord Jesus,

Please grant me the grace to hear your voice every day in my life

In Baptism you claimed me as your own child

and speak to me daily as a loving Father

May I hear your voice through all the ways you desire to speak to me

So that I may be a living witness of your love to others

I ask this through Christ, our Lord,

Amen.