



SPIRITUALITY

FOCUS:

How does God talk to us?

How do we hear God?

We can learn about this through the stories we read in the Bible.

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

OPENING PRAYER:

O Lord, bless our home so that,
in working together
and playing together,
we may learn to serve you
and to serve one another.

Keep us safe and happy.

Amen



We often think that God will shout at us from the sky, or do a magic trick or be big and loud so that we can't ignore him.

We don't realise that God lives within us.

To think that God is inside of us is a bit of a strange thing, I think
– there's so much stuff inside of us that we often can't sort out what exactly

is God,

and what exactly

is US.

Maybe they are both the same thing!

**This is a story about the prophet Samuel, who lived
way after Moses had died.**

Samuel lived with the High Priest Eli.

His mum had promised God that, if she could get Samuel,
she would make sure he served God for the rest of his life.

When he was big enough, she took him to live with Eli so
that he could learn about serving God.

The story is about how Samuel first heard God,
and how he learned to listen to God .



A reading from the Book of Samuel:

Samuel was sleeping and he was woken by a voice:

“Samuel! Samuel!”.

Because he served Eli, he believed that Eli was calling for him.

He got out of his bed and ran to Eli's room to see what he needed.

Eli was fast asleep when Samuel burst in and said,
“What is it you need, Master? I heard you call me!”

Eli said, “ I didn’t call you, child. Go back to bed.”

Samuel went back to bed.



But, no sooner was Samuel settled than it happened again!



A voice called, "Samuel! Samuel!".

And, again, Samuel thought it was Eli and ran through to see what he needed.

But Eli sent him back to bed.

"I did not call you!" he said.



But the third time was different.



When the voice called to Samuel a third time, and he ran to Eli, he wasn't told to go back to bed.

Eli realised that it was God speaking to Samuel.

He said to Samuel:
“ Go back to bed, and say your prayers.
The next time you hear the voice, say,
‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’”

So Samuel did as Eli advised.

He prayed, and made sure that, the next time God called, he would be ready.

And, again, the voice in the night called:
“Samuel, Samuel!”

And Samuel said,
“Speak, Lord, for your
servant is listening.”



God gave Samuel his instructions then.

The rest is a long story,

but Samuel spent the rest of his life seeking justice
and leading people forward in their relationships with God.

Samuel, as a little boy, didn't know that God wanted him to do good things.

He needed Eli to teach him to listen to God.

There were no thunder claps or magic or big, booming voices – just a voice in the night that asked Samuel to listen.

Samuel became very good at listening to God speaking to him.

Can you sit quietly and listen to how God wants you to live?

Can you ask a grown-up to help you work out what God would like you to do?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

Be with us when the things in our life
distract us from who you are.

Help us to spend a bit of time
being quiet
so we can hear you,
and what it is you
need us to do in our daily lives.

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**

