

The Call of Samuel

Samuel 3:1-10



Written by Rev. Jeremy F. Simons

Illustrated by Marguerite Acton

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If you heard someone call your name, do you think you would recognize their voice?

Long ago a mother prayed for a baby. She promised that the baby would work to serve the Lord. The Lord sent baby Samuel to her and she was thankful.

Samuel's mother kept her promise and when he was old enough, she took him to live with Eli the priest (a minister).



Eli was an old man who couldn't see very well. Samuel helped Eli, and Eli cared for Samuel.

One night Samuel was sound asleep in his bed. Suddenly he heard Someone calling him.

“Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel listened. He thought Eli needed help and had called him, so he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli.

But Eli had not called him. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed. So he did.

Samuel heard someone call his name a second time.

“Samuel, Samuel!”



Samuel sprang out of bed and ran to Eli, saying,
“You called me.”

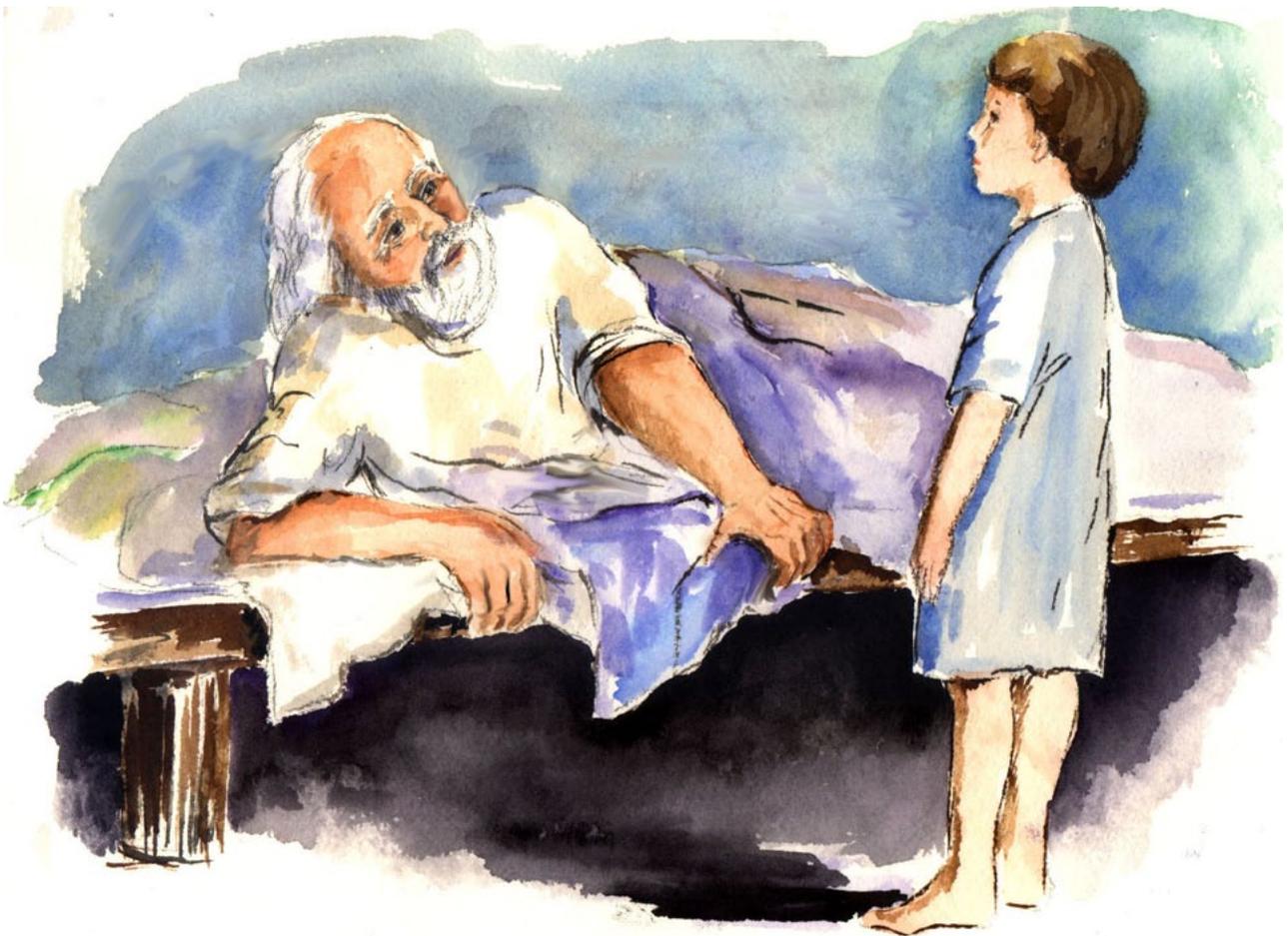
Eli answered, “I didn’t call, go back to bed.” And so he did.

“Samuel, Samuel!” the voice said again!

Samuel ran again to Eli and said, “Here I am. You called me.”

Now Eli understood it was the Lord calling. He told Samuel to go back to bed and listen for the voice again. He should say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.” And Samuel obeyed Eli and went back to bed.

The Lord called Samuel’s name again, “Samuel, Samuel!”



Samuel couldn't see the Lord, but he knew the Lord was there. He said, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears." And then the Lord spoke to Samuel. The Lord wanted Samuel to do an important job and to deliver His Word to the children of Israel.

Samuel didn't know the Lord's voice at first, but he soon learned Who was calling him. Samuel listened to the Lord and grew to become a great leader and prophet of Israel.





The Lord calls to us. He calls to us from His written Word. That is why we open the Word and read from it. It is the Lord speaking and reminding us that He is near. He asks us to obey His commandments, to love each other.

The Lord also leads every person to do a special job — sometimes to help people by working in a business, or raising a family, or some other work. He will lead you to a special job too.

Although you can't hear the sound of His voice, the Lord calls to you. And when you do what your parents ask, you are also obeying the Lord. When you are kind or helpful to someone, you are answering the Lord.



Try to listen for the Lord and obey him. You can do this by learning who He is and what He is like. If you listen to the Lord in His Word, you can learn what He wants you to do, and try to do what He teaches.