

## 2.15 FRIENDS OF GOD LISTEN FOR GOD TO SPEAK

Topic: Becoming a Friend of God

Subtopic: Listening for God to Speak

2A. Prayer and Worship

Class: Standard II (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When asked to define prayer, students will say that prayer is talking with God and listening for God to speak.

**Attitude:** Students will experience quiet time for listening to God speak.

Materials Needed:

Several items that alert you to do something: alarm clock, school bell  
Exercise and Memory Verse Books

Scripture:

**References:** I Samuel 3; Isaiah 59:2  
Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "I am the good shepherd...I know my sheep and they know me." John 10:14 GNT

### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. What four things help us pray more fully?
2. Prayer also includes listening for God to speak. When you hear a cell phone ring, a bicycle horn, a familiar drum beat, how do you respond?

#### Bible Story:

3. When you take care of sheep, do they recognize your voice? Tell the story of hearing God speak from I Samuel 3.

#### *Suggested Discussion Questions*

4. How old was Samuel when he heard God speak to him?
5. What did Samuel do when he knew God was speaking to him?
6. Once Samuel heard God's message, what did he do?
7. Does God speak to us today?
8. How will you know God is speaking to you?
9. How do you distinguish God speaking when there may be other voices?

#### Application:

10. Can we sit silently listen for God to speak to us now?

#### Evaluation:

11. Did you receive any messages from God you want to share?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. ACTS—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication
2. Students tell what the sound of a cell phone, drum beat, bicycle horn etc. tells them to do.

#### Bible Story:

3. Students identify how sheep hear the voice of the one who cares for them. They learn from Samuel that God can speak to us today.

#### *Possible Answers to Questions:*

4. Samuel was a child.
5. He told God he was listening and asked what He wanted him to do.
6. He obeyed and gave the difficult message to Eli, the priest, as God had told him to do.
7. God speaks to us today.
8. He may put someone's name on your mind and you can pray for him/her. He may put an image in your mind of something you can do for another. He can bring a Bible verse to mind that will help you.
9. God will NEVER go against what the Bible says.

#### Application:

10. Listen for God to speak quietly.

#### Evaluation:

11. Students share what God said.

### **Extension Activities**

1. In their Memory Verse exercise book, have them write their new memory verse. "I am the good shepherd...I know my sheep and they know me." John 10:14 GNT
2. In their exercise book, have them write "Friends of God Listen for God to Speak". Draw a picture of Samuel listening to God.
3. Act out this story of Samuel. Have students be Samuel, God, and Eli and let them tell the story back to you.

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

1. Have you ever been working in the garden by yourself and suddenly you hear a voice saying your name. Though you don't see her, you know that is your mother calling you?
2. God often speaks to us in ways that we recognize His "voice".
3. Samuel was a child who lived in the temple with a priest, Eli.
4. One night when everyone was asleep, Samuel heard someone call his name, "Samuel". Samuel was awake immediately.
5. He ran to Eli and asked him what he wanted. Eli told him he didn't call him so he should go back to bed.
6. But Samuel heard the call two more times and each time he went to Eli to see what he wanted.
7. Eli realized that it was God calling Samuel. He told him to go back to bed and if the Lord called again he should say, "I'm listening. What do you want me to do?"
8. Sure enough it was God calling.
9. Samuel told him he was listening and asked what he wanted him to do.
10. God had a message for him to give to Eli. It was a sad message but Samuel knew he had to deliver it, which he did. It was a message that only Samuel could have known because God told him.
11. God learned he could trust Samuel to obey Him and Samuel learned that God speaks to children and adults. Samuel became a very important prophet whom God used.

### **Key Points**

Talking with God is not just saying what we want to say but it includes listening to what God wants to say to us.

### **Hearing and Responding to Familiar Sounds**

Collect a number of items that have familiar sounds to which a response is expected: familiar drum beat, a school bell, a cow bell, bicycle horn, cell phone. Talk about how these sounds get their attention. Talk about how when they hear these sounds they know they must make a response. End by reminding the students that now they know they need to listen for God to speak to them and respond as He leads them.

### **Preparing to Hear God Speak**

It is helpful if we prepare ourselves to hear God speak. One way to do that is to get quiet and listen for Him. That isn't always easy when we want to be doing other things so we need to get rid of "clutter" in our lives that might prevent us from hearing God. What kind of clutter in our lives might try to keep us from hearing God? There can be things like sin (Isaiah 59:2) –when we have disobeyed or lied. There can be things from outside like the noise of radios (TV or CD players, video games). If you want to hear God, try going to a quiet place and turn off noises around you. Ask God to forgive your sins so the inside clutter can be removed. Then you need to start to pray. When you finish talking with God, wait silently and listen to what God may have to say to you.

### **How Can We Know God is Speaking to You?**

God will speak in different ways. Here are three ways He often speaks to us.

1. Sometimes God will put someone's name on your mind or you will get a strong feeling about a certain person. He may be asking you to pray for that person.
2. God may put an image in your mind of something you can do to help someone. That may be His way of telling you there is a task He wants you to perform for Him.
3. God may bring to your mind a Bible verse that is hidden in your heart and that verse may give you a promise you need right then or it may be a directive that God wants you to do right now.

Once you hear God speak, don't delay in obeying. If He indicates you need to pray for someone, stop and pray from your heart for that person. If He puts the idea within you to do something for Him, do it.

Maybe you are thinking that surely there can be other voices besides God's that you may hear. You might make up your own ideas so how do you know it is God's idea given to you? There is one sure test to help you know if it is God speaking. That is that God will NEVER go against what the Bible says. So if you thought you heard a still small voice telling you to steal money from your friend's desk at school, remember the Bible says that you should never steal, so you are listening to the wrong voice.

### **Friends Church often spends time worshiping in silence so they can listen to God**

When people gather together in the Friends church they are known to sit quietly together in worship. Some meetings will sit quietly for the full worship hour and as people hear God nudging them to speak, they will share what God is saying to their hearts. Others may spend only a few minutes in silence. They are listening for God to speak. Sometimes the message they hear from God is for only themselves and sometimes the message is for the whole church and will need to be shared. The meeting is closed when the leader of the group senses it is time. He may say "Amen", or he may reach over and shake the hand of the person next to him.

### **Guidance for Listening to God Speak as You Worship**

Form a circle (if possible) and get real quiet in the presence of God. Turn off any distracting noises to remove the outer clutter. Ask God to reveal any sin or clutter in your heart and then ask Him to help you get rid of that inner clutter. Let Him know that you really want to listen to Him.

Next, if a name comes to your mind that you hadn't been thinking about, pray for that person. If an idea comes to your mind of something you need to do, make sure you learn all you can about what you are to do and follow through as soon as you can. Listen for the possibility that you will find yourself repeating a passage of Scripture. It is okay to share that Scripture with all of the group or if the activity that comes to your mind involves others in the group, make that a prayer to be prayed or a message to be shared with others. When it is time to close your time of waiting expectantly to hear God speak, simply say, "Amen", or shake the hand of the student next to you. Use good judgment about how long the prayer time goes on. If students become restless, bring the quiet time to a close. As you sit quietly, pray silently for the students to experience God talking with them. After you close the quiet time, take some time to talk about what the students experienced.

### **Teacher Evaluation**

Did I provide enough guidance in a simple enough language that the students really experienced God speaking to them? Did I value their sharing in a way that encouraged them to participate in the prayer time? Do I need to offer time of listening prayer regularly? Do I need to spend more time helping them learn to listen? Am I trusting God to use this time to really help these children hear Him?