

## 4.22 Samuel: Hearing God

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Hearing God

1C. Holy Spirit

3D. Living Christ enlightens us

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know that God gives guidance through the Holy Spirit. **Attitude:** Students will seek to know and obey God's will.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: I Samuel 3; Romans 8:5-6;

*Optional:* I Thess. 5:23; Acts 16:6-10

Memory Verse: Romans 8:14

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** There are times when God urges us to do something or stops us from doing something by the leading of His Holy Spirit. Invite students to share. Introduce the memory verse.

**Bible Story:** Introduce the story. Have students act out the *Story about Samuel*. Discuss the story.

**Application:** Explain what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit. Discuss Romans 8:5-6. Share the Bicycle example.

**Evaluation:** Do students understand that God wants to guide them through the Holy Spirit? Do they understand that having inner peace is an indication they are following God's will while uneasiness may indicate they are not being led by the Holy Spirit?

### Student Activities

**Introduction:** Students share times when they have been stopped from doing something because they felt it was wrong.

**Bible Story:** Act out a story about Samuel using the script at the end of the lesson.

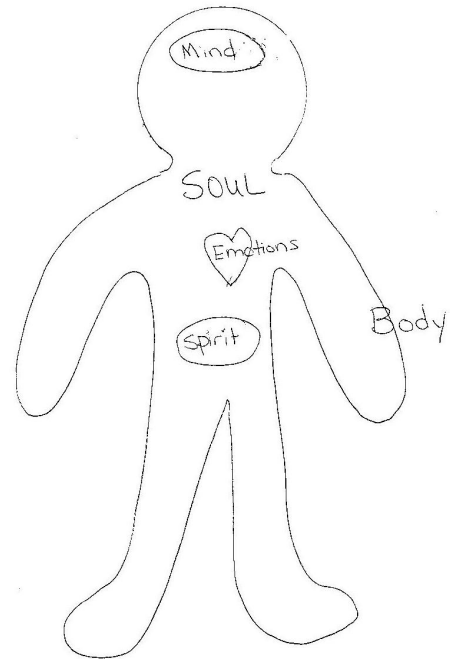
**Application:** Students will listen to examples and answer questions about what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

**Evaluation:** Ask students to use the diagram or examples and explain how we can be led by the Holy Spirit. Are students beginning to understand that the Holy Spirit is inside us and guides us by nudging us gently in the direction God wants us to go?

**Extension Activities:** *Examples of being led by the Holy Spirit.* There are three stories about being led by the Holy Spirit at the end of this lesson (after the skit.) Choose one or two to share with your class. A story may help them understand how we are led by the Holy Spirit.

*A Diagram for understanding spirit, soul and body.* Draw a simple diagram of a person on the board. (See the example below.) Then read and discuss three verses.

**Read I Thessalonians 5:23.** This verse identifies three parts of a human being. (spirit, soul and body) Label the parts on the diagram. The body is the physical part of us that everyone can see. Label the outline as *Body*. The soul is your personality. It includes your emotions and mind and with your mind and emotions you exercise your will. (Write mind in a circle inside the head and emotions near the heart.) You also have a spirit. According to Proverbs, it is in the innermost part of your being. (Write “spirit” in the stomach area of your diagram.)



**Read John 3:8.** Here Jesus is talking and he says that when someone decides to become a friend of God, he or she is “born of the Spirit”. That means the person’s spirit is made new as the Holy Spirit comes inside the person. You can’t see the Holy Spirit because it is like the wind but if you have decided to follow Jesus; your spirit is united with the Holy Spirit and made new so you can understand the things of God. Everyday we make choices. We can follow our flesh which is the desires of our body, natural mind and our emotions or we can try to do what God wants us to do. Our will makes the decision which way we will go. We can decide to be led by the Holy Spirit or be led by our flesh.

**Read Romans 8:6.** What does Romans 8:6 say about those who follow the flesh? (It results in death.) What does it say about those who follow the Spirit? (It results in life and peace.) Try to do what you know is right and follow the Holy Spirit so you have inner peace.

### Notes for Teacher

This is an important lesson because learning to listen to the Holy Spirit is essential for living the Christian life. However, because we cannot see the Holy Spirit this may be a difficult concept for your students. The diagram or additional examples in the extension activities may make it easier to understand. Peacemakers find themselves in difficult situations and listening to the Holy Spirit is essential to know what to do in these situations.

Key Points: Students will know that God gives guidance through the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: Ask students if they have ever started to do something or wanted to do something and they felt inside like it was wrong? Explain that there are times when God urges us to do something or stops us from doing something by the leading of His Holy Spirit. If we are Friends of God, He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us. Introduce the Memory verse. In this lesson students will learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story: The people of Israel were not serving God and the priests rarely heard God speak to them anymore. Samuel was a little boy who lived with Eli, one of the priests. Listen to what happened to Samuel. Choose a narrator, voice of the Lord, Eli and Samuel to act out the story. Give them the script at the end of this lesson. Following the story ask the following questions:

- What did Samuel do when he heard God say his name? (He ran into Eli to see what he wanted because he thought it was Eli)

- How many times did the voice have to call before Samuel realized it was the Lord? (3)
- What did God tell him? (That God would punish Eli's family because Eli's sons were sinning and Eli wasn't doing anything to stop them.)
- How did God talk to Samuel? (A voice – it must have sounded like a human voice because he thought it was Eli.)

Application: *Led by the Holy Spirit.*

- How does God speak to His people today?
- Let's look at our memory verse. We are going to talk about what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.
- Read Romans 8:5-6.
- This verse tells us there are two things that may be controlling us. What are they? (Our human nature and the Spirit) When it says "the Spirit" the scripture here is referring to the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of Jesus Christ in you.
- What does verse 6 say you will have if you are controlled by the Holy Spirit? (life and peace) If you have made the decision to trust Jesus Christ and be His friend the Holy Spirit will guide you and help you make decisions.

When we think about doing something wrong, God tries to stop us by an inner witness or inner nudging that makes us feel uncomfortable. When we are following God's will we feel a sense of peace or calm inside. If you have to make a decision, you can stop and pray about it. When you find the answer that seems to be right according to God's Word and that gives you peace, you are probably following the Holy Spirit. God also uses the Bible and other people to guide us. The Holy Spirit will never lead you to do something that the Bible says is wrong.

*(Optional: You may want to draw the diagram from Extension Activities before you give the bicycle story.)*

*Bicycle Story.* Let's imagine that you see a really nice bicycle. No one is around and you are tempted to take the bike and ride it. You know in your spirit (touch your stomach area) that taking something that is someone else's is wrong but your eyes see it (point to your eyes) and your emotions (touch your heart) want it very much. Your mind (touch your head) tells you no one will see and you need a bike to get to school and do errands for your parents. Why not take it? Let's say you listen to your flesh, what your mind and heart are saying and take the bike. Then when you get home you are uneasy. You are afraid someone will find out. You know you did something wrong and you can't sleep. You don't have any peace. You feel guilty. The next morning you take the bike back and put it back where it was. Now you feel better. You have peace and you can relax and feel good again. You have done what is right. Later you see a boy you know riding the bike. You stop to talk to him and he tells you how the bike was lost and he was so sad because he had saved his money for a long time to buy the bike and then he thought it was stolen but this morning it was back where he left it and he is so happy. You are sorry you took the bike because it hurt this boy but you are glad you listened to the Holy Spirit and gave it back. You tell him the truth and apologize for taking it.

*In this situation, how did listening to the Holy Spirit bring peace? (Point out that it brought inner peace to the boy who did what was right and it brought peace with others by not causing conflict with the other boy.)*

### Story about Samuel (Based on I Samuel 3: 3-21)

**Narrator:** Samuel's mother had prayed for a very long time to have a son and she had promised God that if she had a son she would give him to the Lord. So when Samuel was still a little boy she took him to live at the temple with Eli the priest. Eli's sons did evil things and Eli didn't do anything to stop them so the priests rarely heard God's voice anymore. One night Eli and Samuel were both sleeping, when Samuel heard something.

**Voice of the Lord:** Samuel, Samuel...

**Samuel:** (jump up and run to Eli) Here I am!

**Eli:** (sit up and look confused) What are you doing here, boy?

**Samuel:** Here I am! You called me.

**Eli:** I did not call; lie down again. (Samuel goes and lies down.)

**Voice of the Lord:** (After a short pause...) Samuel, Samuel...

**Samuel:** (jump up and run to Eli) Here I am!

**Eli:** (sit up and look confused) What are you doing here, boy?

**Samuel:** Here I am! You called me.

**Eli:** I did not call; lie down again. (Samuel goes and lies down.)

**Voice of the Lord:** (After a short pause...) Samuel, Samuel...

**Samuel:** (jump up and run to Eli) Here I am!

**Eli:** (sit up and look confused) What are you doing here, boy?

**Samuel:** Here I am! You called me.

**Eli:** Samuel, it must be God that is calling you. Go lie down and if you hear the voice again say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." (Samuel goes back and lies down.)

**Voice of the Lord:** (After a short pause...) Samuel, Samuel...

**Samuel:** Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."

**Voice of the Lord:** Tell Eli that I am going to punish his sons because they do evil and do not obey me. I will also judge Eli because he doesn't do anything to stop their evil ways.

**Narrator:** After that God spoke to Samuel often and people would come to him and ask him what to do because he would pray and hear God's voice and tell them what to do. Samuel became a very important man in Israel.

## Stories about Hearing God for Extension Activities

*Bible Example of the Holy Spirit's leading.* Have the students read Acts 16: 6-10. **Paul, Silas and Timothy are traveling to various cities to tell people the Good News of Jesus Christ. What happened when they tried to go to Phrygia and Galatia?** (The Holy Spirit did not let them preach in the province of Asia.) **Then they tried to go into Bithynia. What happened there?** (The Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.) **Then God told them to go to Macedonia. How did God speak to Paul this time?** (A vision). **Two times the Holy Spirit stopped Paul. We don't know for sure but probably this was by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. He felt that it wasn't right to go that way.** If you have a Bible map, show the students where these areas are. Help them see that Macedonia is beyond Phrygia, Galatia and Bithynia. If they had stopped at all these other places they might not have had time to go clear to Macedonia. **We don't always know why the Holy Spirit says, "No," to one thing but usually it is because He has something better for us.**

*An example of the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit:* One time there was a family with several children who were sick. They prayed for the children but they didn't get well. The parents took the children to the doctor but the doctor could not figure out what was wrong. One day the parents were meeting with some friends in a small prayer group and as the group prayed for the children, one person in the group said, "I keep thinking of MILK. Could that have anything to do with your children?" The parents had been buying milk from the neighbors. It was unprocessed goat's milk and evidently there was something wrong with it because when they stopped using that milk, the children got well. Sometimes you might be praying for someone and God gives you a picture, a word or a feeling that helps you know how to pray like this group that prayed for the children. Sometimes when we are praying and asking God for guidance he will give us a verse. For example, you might be thinking about doing something and you keep worrying about everything that could go wrong but when you pray about it, God reminds you of the verse in Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not for I am with you; Be not dismayed for I am your God." That encourages you and you have the courage to do the thing you were considering.

If you practice listening and obeying God you will get so you can hear Him better. If you ignore His leading it may get harder to hear. Remember that He often leads you by giving you a feeling of peace when you are moving in the right direction and uneasiness when you are going in the wrong direction. Learn to obey quickly.

*A Personal Example.* If you have a personal example of being led by the Holy Spirit you could share it at this time. Here is a personal example from the author's life experience:

One evening I was watching TV with my dog. I felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit that I needed to pray. So I stopped and prayed. About 10:00 I decided to take the dog and lock her in the barn where she slept at night. I started for the door and I felt that nudging from the Holy Spirit to stay in the house so I went back to the living room. We lived in the country along a highway. I heard a car drive into my driveway and I heard car doors slam and people yelling. I went to the window to see what was going on outside. Someone was hitting another person who was inside the car. I called the police and they were there in a few minutes and arrested the man. If I had gone to the barn with my dog, I would have been outside and not been able to get back to the house to call the police. By listening to the Holy Spirit I was able to call the police and get help for the woman.