

Rhythms of Grace Worship • October Year 3

Theme: The Call of Samuel- As Samuel listened to God's call we must all listen.

Scripture: 1Samuel 3:1-11

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: sleeping bags, blankets, pillows (enough for everyone)

Storytelling: All from the gathering, Bible, Jesus doll, storytelling pages, felt board, felt figs. using basic forms found in Resources-Lydia; Eli, Hannah, baby, young boy Samuel plus you could use a temple as background (see Jan. Resources: Epiphany, Simeon and Anna for examples) and story, if needed, Samuel's responses; "Here I am; you called me?" and "Yes, Lord, I am listening", from the Storytelling on poster board for listeners to refer to.

Response Activities:

Name poster- Construction paper, markers, glue, items to decorate i.e. macaroni, cotton balls, plastic beads, etc.

Clay lamp- grey clay or modeling clay, picture of ancient oil lamp in Resources

Stained glass- Parchment paper, crayons, black marker, cotton balls, baby oil, cut out frames of black construction paper.

Self-portrait pictures- paper cut outs of people, crayons or colored pencils, scraps of material and yarn (will be used in regathering)

Regathering: Outline of church for wall, paper doll cut out figures from activity section, masking tape, *Jesu*, *Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

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Gathering: As participants gather encourage them to select some bedding items from around the room and prepare a place to hear the story and pretend to sleep.

Storytelling: Sitting in front of the felt board with figures in front of you along with the Bible, Jesus doll, and Storytelling pages. Invite participants to come and sit/spread out getting comfortable as if you were getting ready to sleep.

Response Activities:

Name poster- On construction paper, leader will print the participant's name. Participant will trace their name with glue and place an item/items on the letters spelling out their name. Additional decoration is welcome.

Clay Lamps- Each person will make a lamp out of clay. Showing your picture explain that these lamps are what Eli and Samuel would have used for light in the temple.

Stained glass windows- Have the participant free hand color on an 8 ½ X 11 piece of paper with different colored crayons. Depending on the ability, either the leader or the person can use the marker to section off the colors. Using a cotton ball and baby oil wipe all over the art work. It will take on a glasslike effect. Let dry and frame with black pre-cut frames.

Self portraits- Using paper figures have participants create a "self portrait" by putting a face, clothing or hair on the figure.

Regathering: Play, "God is calling You" Example: "Peter, Peter God is calling you to Him". Have the child bring the paper figure made in response time and put it in the church outline on the wall. Then, singing *Jesu, Jesu*, pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*
Gather our hearts, oh God
Gather our thoughts, oh God
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*
Celebrant provides the blessing:
Celebrant: "*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*"
Participant: "*Thanks be to God!*"

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Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller who sits in front of the felt board and felt figs. with participants comfortably gathered in their “bed”.

INSTRUCTIONS: Practice the instructions a few times so they can remember, if necessary make small signs with Samuel’s responses on them to help.

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God’s people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God’s son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Today’s story comes from the part of our Bible before Jesus was born. It is called the Old Testament. I want to tell you about a woman and her son, Samuel. I would like to ask you to help me to tell the story. When Samuel goes to sleep can you pretend to be asleep? Let’s see- (have the listeners pretend to be asleep). Now when Samuel is called can you wake up, sit up, and say, “Here I am, you called me Eli?” Let’s try this- (*listeners wait for storyteller to call them, and they sit up when they hear Samuel, Samuel...*) That was great but at the end listen to Eli’s instructions to Samuel and when he is called as Eli says to answer.

Many, many years ago there was a woman named Hannah. She believed in God and followed his commandments but her heart was very sad because she really wanted a child. (*put Hannah on the felt board*). When Hannah prayed she was very honest with God and promised, “Dear God, if you would give me a son when he is old enough I will bring him to your temple to honor and serve you for his whole life.” As Hannah was praying a priest named Eli saw her. (*put Eli up next to Hannah*) He told her, “Go in peace and may God answer your prayers.” (*take Eli off the felt board*)

A little while later a wonderful thing happened. Hannah had a baby son whom she called Samuel, (*put the baby on Hannah’s arms*). Hannah loved Samuel very much but she remembered her promise to God and when the boy was old enough (*exchange the boy for the baby*) she went back to the place where she had prayed and said to Eli the priest, “I am the woman that cried and prayed for this child so many years ago. God answered my prayers and now I am keeping my promise. I am giving him to the Lord and I will leave him with you to learn and work with you.” (*take Hannah off the board and move Samuel and Eli to the temple*). So, Samuel lived with Eli and every year Hannah would visit Samuel. Samuel worked very hard and learned a lot while he stayed with Eli.

(Storyteller tells the listeners, now it's time for you to help me tell this story) (At this point you can still move the figures around or just participate with everyone in the play acting)

One night something unusual happened. Both Eli and Samuel had gone to bed *(now go to sleep)* and were sleeping comfortably when Samuel all of a sudden woke up, *(storyteller tells participants, "Now wake up")* someone was calling him, *(storyteller calls)*, "Samuel". Thinking it was his teacher, Eli, Samuel ran to his bed and answered *(storyteller says, "say with me" and hold up response card if using)* "Here I am; you called me?" But Eli said, "I did not call you; go back and lie down." So Samuel went back to bed, *(storyteller tells participants, "Now go back to sleep")*.

Just as Samuel settled down and was just about to fall asleep he heard again, "Samuel". He woke up *(motion for all to wake up)*. Again, Samuel ran to Eli's bed and answered, "Here I am; you called me?" Eli said, "I did not call you; go back and lie down". So Samuel went back to bed *(motion to go back to sleep)*.

A third time as Samuel settled down he heard, "Samuel" *(motion up)*. For a third time Samuel ran to Eli's bed and answered, "Here I am; you called me?" But Eli realized that it was God calling Samuel so he told Samuel "Go back to bed and if you hear the voice again say, "Yes, Lord, I am listening" *(remember the new words)*. "Yes Lord, I am listening".

Sure enough, just as Samuel lay down he heard, *(story teller says, "Samuel, Samuel")*. So Samuel quickly replied, *(hold up new response and tell participants to say)* "Yes, Lord, I am listening." From then on Samuel knew that God wanted to talk to him and he always listened. God blessed Samuel and he grew up to be a great prophet which means he helped God talk to his peoples. He helped many people to know God better.

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.