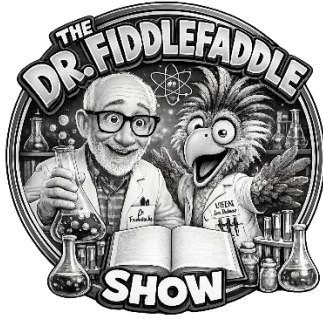




Teacher's Guide

The Dr. Fiddlefaddle Show

The Day the Lamp of God Went Out

Bible Text 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (KJV)

Key Verse: "Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place." 1 Samuel 3:9 (KJV)

Theme

God still speaks today, but we must have listening hearts that are ready to hear and obey Him.

Main Bible Truth

Children often think that hearing God means hearing an audible voice. While God certainly can do anything He desires, the Bible teaches that God most commonly speaks to His people through His Word, by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, through godly counsel, and by directing circumstances according to His will. Our responsibility is not simply to listen with our ears—but with our hearts.

Teacher Preparation

Read before class:

- 1 Samuel 2:27–36
- 1 Samuel 3:1–21
- 1 Kings 19:9–13
- Psalm 119:105
- John 10:27
- Romans 10:17
- Hebrews 4:12

Pray that each child will learn to recognize God's voice through His Word and develop a heart that desires to obey Him.

Setting the Scene

This lesson begins during one of the saddest times in Israel's history. The Tabernacle was still standing in Shiloh, but the spiritual condition of Israel had become very dark. Eli was the high priest. Although he knew God's law, he failed to discipline his sons, Hophni and Phinehas. They were priests who abused their position, stole from God's sacrifices, and caused people to despise the worship of God. The Bible tells us that "the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision" (1 Samuel 3:1). God was not speaking frequently because the nation had stopped listening.

One small detail in the story is especially important: "And ere the lamp of God went out..." (1 Samuel 3:3) The golden lampstand inside the Tabernacle was to burn throughout the night until morning (Exodus 27:20–21). As dawn approached, the lamp was nearly extinguished. This was more than simply telling the time of day. It paints a picture of Israel's spiritual condition. The nation had allowed its love for God to grow dim. Just as the lamp was almost out, so the people's hearts had grown cold toward God. Yet that very night, while everything seemed spiritually dark, God called a young boy named Samuel. When others stopped listening... Samuel was listening. When others ignored God... Samuel answered. This lesson reminds us that God is looking for boys and girls who will say, **"Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth."**

Lesson Objective

By the end of the lesson, children should understand:

- God desires to speak to His people.
 - We must keep our hearts open and listening.
 - God speaks primarily through His Word.
 - We should always respond with obedience.
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Opening Question

Ask the children: "When your mom or dad calls your name, how do you know it is them?"

Allow several answers.

Then ask: "What happens if you don't listen?"

Explain that Samuel had to learn to recognize God's voice.

Dr. Fiddlefaddle Connection

After watching the episode, remind the children: Dr. Fiddlefaddle and Vern were trying to discover who was calling Vern's name. Sometimes people think hearing God is mysterious or magical. The real mystery isn't whether God speaks. The real question is... **Are we listening?**

Teaching Point 1

God Speaks When Hearts Are Listening

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-4

Explain: Samuel was young. He wasn't a priest. He wasn't famous. But he had a heart willing to serve. God often speaks to people who are quietly serving Him.

Application: God isn't looking for the smartest child. He is looking for the child who is willing to listen.

Teaching Point 2

Eli Finally Gave Good Advice

Read: 1 Samuel 3:8-9

Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. His instruction was simple: "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." Notice Samuel did not tell God what to do. He simply became willing to listen.

Application: Prayer isn't only talking to God. Prayer also includes quietly listening to what God teaches us through His Word.

Teaching Point 3

God Still Speaks Today

Explain that God speaks in several ways.

1. Through the Bible

Psalm 119:105

The Bible is God's written Word. Every time we read it, God teaches us.

Ask: How can God guide us if we never open His Book?

2. Through the Holy Spirit

When Christians read Scripture, the Holy Spirit helps them understand it. Sometimes while reading the Bible, a verse seems to speak directly to our situation. That is God teaching us through His Spirit.

3. Through Our Hearts

God often impresses our hearts to do what is right. He may remind us to apologize. He may convict us when we sin. He may encourage us to help someone. **God never tells us something that disagrees with the Bible.**

4. Through Godly People

Parents.

Sunday school teachers.

Pastors.

Faithful Christian friends.

God often uses people who know Him to encourage and teach us.

5. Through Quiet Moments

Read: 1 Kings 19:12

Elijah expected God in the wind. Then the earthquake. Then the fire. Instead... God spoke in a still small voice. Sometimes our lives become so noisy that we forget to stop and listen.

Teaching Point 4

Listening Must Lead to Obedience

Samuel did exactly what God told him. Listening without obeying accomplishes nothing.

Illustration: Imagine your teacher says, "Please clean up your desk." If you hear the words but never do it... Were you really listening? The same is true with God.

Practical Applications

Encourage the children to:

- Read one Bible passage every day.
 - Pray every day.
 - Sit quietly after praying.
 - Listen carefully during church.
 - Obey what God teaches.
 - Ask questions when they do not understand Scripture.
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Object Lesson

Listening Ears

Bring a flashlight. Turn it on. Explain that God's Word gives light. Now remove the batteries. The flashlight looks the same but gives no light.

Explain: When we stop reading God's Word... When we stop praying... When we stop listening... Our hearts begin to grow spiritually dark. Just as the lamp in the Tabernacle was about to go out, our spiritual light can grow dim if we neglect fellowship with God.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Samuel think Eli was calling him?
 2. What did Eli finally realize?
 3. What did Samuel say to God?
 4. How does God speak to us today?
 5. Why should everything we believe agree with the Bible?
 6. Why is it important to obey after God speaks?
 7. What can keep us from listening to God?
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Memory Verse Activity

Repeat together: "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth."

Remove one word each time until the children can quote it from memory.

Gospel Connection

Before anyone can truly follow God's voice, they must first belong to Him. Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice..." (John 10:27) Explain that those who trust Jesus Christ as their Savior become part of His family. Because they belong to Him, they can grow in knowing His voice through the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Invite children who have questions about salvation to speak with you after class.

Closing Challenge

Ask every child:

What is one thing you can do this week to become a better listener to God?

Encourage them to choose one:

- Read their Bible every day.
- Pray every morning.
- Memorize one verse.
- Listen carefully in church.
- Obey God immediately when He shows them what is right.

Finish by praying together:

"Lord, help us to have hearts like Samuel. Teach us to listen when You speak through Your Word, through Your Spirit, through godly people, and in the quiet moments of life. Help us not only to hear Your voice but also to obey it. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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