

<b>PARENT PAGE</b> CHARACTER LESSON 27	<h1 style="margin: 0;">HEARING GOD'S VOICE (SAMUEL)</h1>	
	<b>1 Samuel 3:1–20</b>	<b>1 Samuel 3:21</b>
BIBLICAL PASSAGE	MEMORY VERSE	

The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. **1 Samuel 3:21**

How many of us as parents have ever said to our children in frustration, "Answer me when I call you?" How must God feel when He speaks to us and we never respond?

Read 1 Samuel 3:1–20. Two verses out of this passage are very interesting. In verse 1, it says "the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions." And in verse 7, it says "Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to Him." Remember that Samuel was not living with his mother or father, and there is evidence to suggest that Eli was not always the best example of a father to his own children.

Children need good examples in the home to lead them to know God and His Word. Our children can learn in the home how to listen for and hear God's voice. They will learn from us. If we are diligent in reading and studying God's Word, obeying it, talking about it, entering into prayer over it, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, plus, interacting with other believers, our children will have the right pattern laid down for them to follow.

Don't allow your home to be a place where "the word of the Lord [is] rare." Instead, become proactive in listening to the voice of the Lord in the ways He reveals Himself, teaching your teens to do the same.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, a family member downloads .wav files, or mp3 files of famous voices, such as JFK, or Martin Luther King Jr., George W. Bush, Oprah Winfrey, and others. Then, play the files in a series and let other family members see if they can identify the person speaking. (Another option would be to play a series of songs, in part, having family members name the person singing.) Ask: **Could you identify God by His voice, if He were speaking to you?**

### Explore . . .

First, family members read 1 Samuel 3:1–20. Then, a family member asks: **How was Samuel instructed to respond to the Lord, and how did he respond to the Lord? How do we listen for and anticipate God speaking to us? How can we know that it is God who is speaking? What is important about a relationship with God and hearing His voice?**

### Transform . . .

First, the family prepares a list of ways that they can hear God's voice. Then, the family responds by listing ways in the coming week that they will anticipate and listen for God's voice speaking to them individually and as a family. Plan a time to report back together at the end of the week to share what you have heard from God.

*Pray together that your family members will know the voice of God when He speaks, and respond in obedience.*

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