

Family Sunday School Lesson 2 - Community of Believers

Introduction:

This is the second lesson in our six-week series about being called to the purpose that God has given us. At times we may feel inadequate to the tasks that God has for us, but we need to remember we are baptized into a community of faith; we don't do it alone.



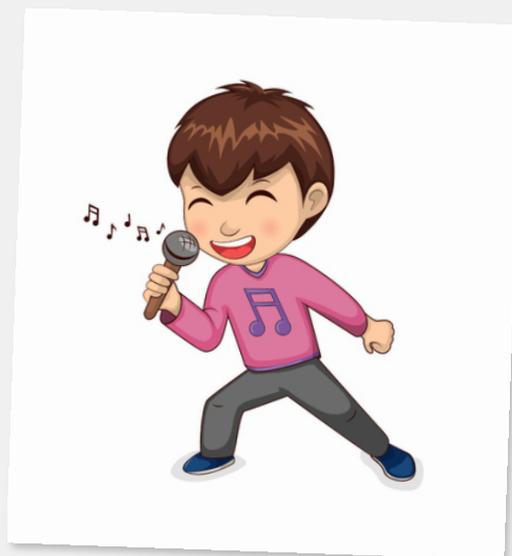
Start the Fun!

Sing Out!

All around the planet, people are called and welcomed into God's family. Listen to and sing along with this popular Spanish hymn, "Señor, tu me llamas por mi nombre," or "Lord, you call me by my name."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KQaKf9ud04&list=RDPgiL1_Sx3Vs&index=3

Here is a link to the English translation: <https://www.musixmatch.com/lyrics/Agrupaci%C3%B3n-Buenas-Nuevas/Se%C3%B1or-T%C3%BA-Me-Llamas/translation/english>



Read together

Part 1: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 The Lord Calls Samuel

3 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Discuss

Ask: Samuel heard God call him three times before he realized it was God. Does this sound like something that might happen to you?

Discussion points: Samuel thought it was his mentor calling him. Sometimes God uses other people to help us find our call (or to suggest something we could do to love others). We may not realize this is God nudging us. God might also use other subtle ways to encourage us. If we are not careful, we could miss these opportunities to work with God.

Ask: What are some other ways God might speak to you?

Discussion points: God might speak to us when we read the Bible and pray and pay attention in church. We might also hear God's call in a news story on the radio or TV, or in a book that we read. God can speak to our hearts in many ways if we are listening.

Ask: Samuel had a mentor, Eli, who told him to listen to and obey God. Who in your life is that kind of influence? Who helps you think about ways God might be calling you to act?

Related verse: Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 says, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”

Pray

“Lord, we want to hear from you. We want to hear you speaking to our hearts and minds. Help us to listen for and pay attention to you.” Thank God for the mentors, teachers, parents and friends who help you make faithful decisions.

Participate

Game Time

Remember, you are part of a large community of faithful believers. We can all encourage each other to follow God’s call. In this game, family members help each other succeed by clapping and cheering.

Game: Applause, Please

Have one person (the finder) step out of the room.

The rest of the group secretly selects an object (for instance, the TV remote). When the finder comes back in, they begin walking around the room in search of the object.

The others cannot say anything, but they can give hints by using applause to lead the finder in the right direction.

If the finder is far away from the object, the group will clap slowly and softly. When the finder gets close, the group will applaud faster and more loudly until the finder picks the correct object.



Wrap Up

Not even Jesus worked alone, but had a community of disciples to help him. Remember, your family, your friends and your Church are there to support you when you need it.

Take a Moment to Breathe

Counting Breath Prayer

Sit up straight in your chair. Begin to inhale and exhale through your nose for the same amount of time. On your inhale, slowly count up to four (1, 2, 3, 4).

On your exhale, slowly count down from four (4, 3, 2, 1). Once you feel the rhythm of your breath, place your hands on your knees, palms facing up, and think of two or three good things in your life and picture those things resting in your hands.

Imagine them settling into your palms. Hold onto them as you return to your day.

