



GOD CONVERSATIONS FOR CHILDREN

God Conversations (godconversations.com) is a global ministry that equips people to recognise and respond to God's voice. Our mission is to make the voice of God clear and accessible to everyone who wants to follow it.

We believe that God speaks by his Spirit to children. As the scriptures tell us he poured out his Spirit on both the old and the young (Acts 2:17). Our desire is that whole families would be equipped to recognise and respond to God's voice.

Included in the *God Conversations for Children Pack* is a lesson plan, activities and resources to use during the God Conversations ministry visit. The content is aimed at children aged 7-10 years and can comfortably be taught within a 35min program. Please feel free to adapt the content to best meet the age and needs of your children and the program length you are working with.

Tania Harris
With the GC team

LESSON PLAN

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the children will be able to:

1. Recognise that listening and responding to others shows we care about them
2. Understand that God wants to speak to them
3. Distinguish between the kinds of things God would and would not say

Introduction: Chinese Whispers

(10 mins)

Activity: In groups of 5-10, play Chinese Whispers/Telephone game.

A sentence is to be passed around the circle in whispers from one child to the next. The goal is for the sentence to be passed accurately so that it sounds the same as at the beginning. Vary difficulty of phrases depending on the age of the children. The phrases can start simply and increase in difficulty. They do not have to make sense! Use 2-4 sentences and give prizes for the group who manages to pass the sentence most accurately.

Sample sentences:

- Why is that dog meowing?
- Jesus came to earth to show us what God is like
- My church is the best church in the world
- Internet kids never sleep
- Blue is greener than purple for sure
- A zebra licked a DVD

Part 1 – The Importance of Listening

(5 mins)

1. Discuss the 'Chinese Whispers/Telephone' game:

- Was it hard or easy?
- What worked? What didn't work?
- What made it hard or easy?
- What was the most important thing to do in the game?

2. Discuss friendship and what makes a good friend. Eg.

- Put your hand up if you have a friend? A best friend?
- Do you have a friend who talks all the time and doesn't listen to you? How does that make you feel?

It's not a good feeling when your friend does all the talking and doesn't listen to you. It probably does not make you want to play with them a lot. When we listen to people it shows them that we care about them.

Part 2 – God is Speaking

(20 mins)

Listening is also an important way to show God that we care about him.

When we pray, we are talking to God. But, did you know that God also wants to talk to us? If we do not listen to him, we can be like our friends who talk too much.

1. Samuel's Story (1 Samuel 3:1-21)

(See Appendix 1)

Introduce the story – this story is about a young boy who didn't know that God was speaking to him.

Every time the children hear 'And Samuel said' they respond with 'Here I am!'

Samuel told God he was listening and ready to do what He said. God wants to speak to you too! Are you listening and ready to do what God says?

2. Activity: Flash Cards

(See Appendix 2)

But what does God sound like?

Not every voice we hear is from God. Sometimes those voices in our head tell us things that are not good for us. Knowing what God is like and the kinds of things he would say help us know when God is talking to us.

Use the ten flash cards to talk to the children about three kinds of things God would and would not say and why.

3. Activity: Samuel Worksheet

(See Appendix 3)

Children to complete activity sheet

Conclusion

Lead the children in praying to invite God to speak to them (especially regarding what they think God is saying to them today)

Bonus

Run another listening game (See Appendix 4):

1. Come Here Samuel
2. Simon Says
3. Red Light, Green Light.

SAMUEL'S STORY (1 SAM. 3:1-21)

Introduction

Samuel was the son of Hannah. Hannah wanted a baby boy very much and when God gave her Samuel she made sure that he was raised in the church. One day Samuel heard a voice in the temple. At first, he thought it was the priest, Eli, but then he found out that it was God speaking to him!

Story

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. **And Samuel said: "Here I am!"**

"I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So, Samuel went back to bed.

Again, someone called out, "Samuel!". So, Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. **And Samuel said: "Here I am!"**

"I didn't call you, go back to bed," Eli answered a second time.

A third time someone called out, "Samuel!" And a third time Samuel got up and went to Eli. **And Samuel said: "Here I am!"**

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, **and Samuel said, "Here I am and speak, for your servant is listening."**

God spoke to Samuel and told him many things that would happen soon.

God spoke to Samuel and God wanted to use Samuel even though he was young. We need to listen for God just like Samuel did.

I love you

**You are
stupid**

**You are
special**

**You are
boring**

**Help your
friend**

**Hurt your
friend**

Be kind

Be mean

**Tell the
truth**

Tell a lie

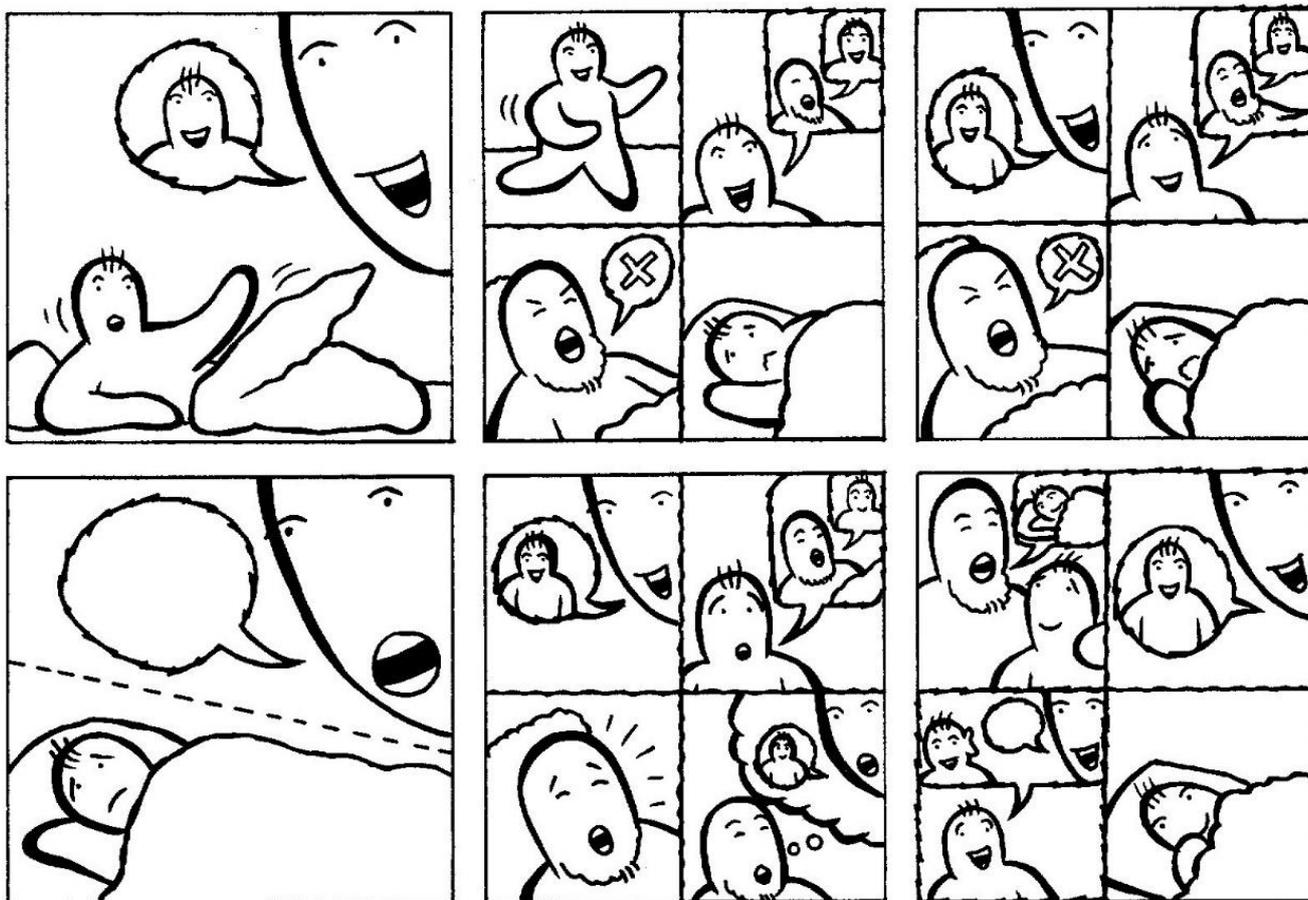
~ 1 SAMUEL 3:1-21 ~

'SAMUEL TOLD GOD HE WAS LISTENING AND READY TO DO WHAT HE SAID'

"Here I Am!"

When I listen to people it shows them that I care.

God wants to speak to me!



LIKE SAMUEL, ARE YOU READY TO SAY TO GOD

"Speak Lord, I am listening"

In this speech bubble write what you think God is saying to you today...

BONUS ACTIVITIES

Come Here Samuel

- Have the children sit in a circle.
- One child will lay down in the middle of the circle and pretend to be asleep.
- Pick a child in the circle to say, 'Come Here Samuel.' "Samuel"/child in the middle will then wake up and guess which child said, 'Come Here Samuel'
- If they guess correctly then the two children will switch places and the game continues.
- If the child guesses incorrectly then you will say, 'Go back to sleep' and someone else will say 'Come Here Samuel.' Continue until they pick the correct child.

"When the Lord called for Samuel he thought it was Eli at first. Eventually he realized that it was the Lord calling him. The Lord had an important message for Samuel."

Red Light Green Light

- Players line up on one side and the person who is calling out 'Red Light!' and 'Green Light!' stands in the middle of the space (with their back to the players).
- Whenever the person in the middle calls out 'Green Light!', players can run forward.
- However, when 'Red Light!' is called all runners must stop and freeze. Any runners not frozen will have to go back to the start line.
- Aim is for the people running to tag the person calling 'Red/Green Light!'

Simon Says

- One person is designated Simon, the others are the players. Standing in front of the group, Simon tells players what they must do. However, the players must only obey commands that begin with the words "Simon Says." If Simon says, "Simon says touch your nose," then players must touch their nose.
- Any players who do not do follow what "Simon" says or follow commands when "Simon Says" is not used (e.g. "touch your nose") are out.