

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

Adapted from Leading Little Ones to God
by Marian M. Schoolland
(Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

For more downloadable teachings see:
www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan.

All rights reserved. The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States
Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Biblica.

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **Adam and Eve were the very first people God made – a man and a woman.**
- **After God made Adam and Eve, He used to talk to them.**
- **In the evening, when the sun was going down, He came to the garden to talk to them.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **Years later, God talked to a man named Abraham.**
- **Abraham, was God's friend.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **God talked to Moses too.**
- **God talked to Moses many times.**
- **Once Moses was up on Mount Sinai with God for forty days.**
- **Moses did not even have to eat, because God took care of Him while He talked to him.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **The Bible also tells us how God talked to a “little boy” one night.**
- **This little boy lived in God’s tabernacle.**
- **His name was Samuel.**
- **Samuel helped Eli, the old priest, take care of God’s tabernacle.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- One night, when Samuel was in bed, God talked to him.
- God called, **“Samuel! Samuel!”**
- Samuel thought that Eli was calling him.
- He jumped out of bed and ran to Eli.
- But Eli said, **“No, I did not call you.”**
- Samuel went back to bed.

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- God called Samuel again – “Samuel, Samuel!”
- Samuel thought, “It **MUST** be Eli calling me.”
- But when he ran to Eli, Eli said,
“No, my son, I did not call you.”
- And Samuel went back to bed again.

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- But then he heard the voice again – “Samuel! Samuel!”
- Samuel ran to Eli once more.
- This time Eli said, “Now I know who is calling you. It is the Lord!! And if you hear His voice again, you must say, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- This is GREAT ADVICE. We too should use these same words, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”
- When we pray we should say, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”
- When we open God’s Word we should say, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”
- When we are on a bus we should say, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **If we are not taking time to “listen to God”, then God will remove our “busyness” and even “people” from our lives in order for us to begin to “listen”.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **After Eli had told Samuel what to do, the young boy laid down once again.**
- **He could hardly believe that God would “really” talk to him because he was only a little boy. He lay very still. He listened.**
- **And then – then he heard the VOICE again –**
“SAMUEL, SAMUEL!!”
- **And he said, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **Then God talked to Samuel that night.**
- **He told him things that were going to happen.**
- **After that, God talked to Samuel “many times”**
- **Samuel became one of the great “prophets.”**
- **He told people what God wanted them to do.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **God has talked to many others. They were His prophets too.**
- **God sent them to tell His Word to His people.**
- **And God talks to millions of others now who are willing to say, “Speak Lord, Your servant is listening.”**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **And “WE” talk to God when we pray to Him.**
- **We close our eyes. We think about God.**
- **We ask God’s Holy Spirit to “fall upon us”.**
- **We ask God’s Holy Spirit to “fill us” with Himself.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **And the Holy Spirit helps us to pray because we don't really know how to pray.**
- **And then we pray to God.**
- **And we “know” that God hears us because He lives “IN” us and “ALL AROUND” us.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **But does God talk to us?**
- **Can “we” hear God?**
- **Long ago He talked to Samuel and He talked to many others.**
- **He talked to people written about in the Bible.**
- **And He talked to people who were “NOT” written about in the Bible.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **But does He talk to you and to me?**
- **Yes, He does talk to us! He talks to us in several ways.**
- **He talks to us through His book, the Bible, most of all.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **When God talked to men long ago, He told them to “WRITE DOWN” His words in a book.**
- **These words became a “big book” which we call THE BIBLE.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **The Bible is God's Word.**
- **God has taken care of His Word.**
- **Though it was written many, many years ago, we can read it TODAY!!**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **God took care of it because HE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU AND ME THROUGH IT!!**
- **When we “read” the Bible, God is talking to us.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **But it is so important when we read the Bible to be filled with God's Spirit so He can speak to our hearts.**
- “Lord God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Will You come now and fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I can understand what you are saying to me more and more. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen”.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **When the minister reads the Bible to us, God is talking to us.**
- **But it is so important when the minister reads the Bible to us that we are filled with God's Spirit so He can speak to our hearts.**
- **When our parents, or our Sunday School teacher, or our Bible School teacher, or God's servants read the Bible to us, God is talking to us!!**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **There are many books in the world.**
- **The BIBLE is the most wonderful of them all.**
- **The Bible, the “whole” Bible, is God talking to us.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **We love the Bible because it is God's Word.**
- **We take care of our Bibles.**
- **We read our Bibles because we want to know what God says to us.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **God talked us in a very special way when He sent JESUS, His Son, to live on earth.**
- **Many of the things that Jesus said are also in the Bible.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- I love this verse in Hebrews 1:1 it says, “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.”
- MANY TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS – trust God to talk to you MANY TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS.....trust Him!!!

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- Then it goes on to say in verse 2, “**but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**”
- **God HAS spoken to us by His Son.....and He will continue to speak to us by His Son through His Word.....praise the Lord!!**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **And God talks to us when HIS SPIRIT whispers in our hearts.**
- **Sometimes the Spirit whispers when we are praying, to tell us that God hears us.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **Sometimes God speaks to us through people – our friends, children, and even enemies!!**
- **Sometimes God speaks to us through our circumstances.**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **Sometimes God speaks to us through His creation!!**
- **But we must do our part and our part is to be attentive and listen!!**
- **Let's spend a few moments now and LISTEN for God's voice!!**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

Questions:

- **Can you name different people that God talked to?**
- **At what time of day did God call Samuel?**
- **Did Samuel “see” God?**
- **What did Samuel say to God?**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

- **In what book does God talk to us?**
- **Who wrote this book?**
- **Why is the Bible the most wonderful of all books?**
- **When has God spoken THROUGH you to others?**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

MEMORY VERSES

- **“Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”
(1 Samuel 3:10)**
- **Your word I have hid in my heart that I might
not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)**

GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE

MEDITATION VERSE

- For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:24-25)

1 Samuel 3:1-10

adapted from:
www.sermonseeds.org/Master%20Index.htm
For more downloadable teachings see:
www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Let's read 1 Samuel 3:1-10

- **The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel.**

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

1) GOD SPEAKS AT QUIET TIMES

- **When God spoke to Samuel it was at night.**
- **When God spoke to Joseph, or Daniel it was often in a dream.**

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

- When God spoke to John it was at a quiet time.
He was **"in the Spirit on the Lord's Day."**
(Revelation 1:10)
- When God spoke to Elijah on Mount Horeb, it was with a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12).
- It seems that it is during the times of solitude and quiet. (Psalm 46:10-11, Isaiah 30:15)

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Samuel answered, "Here I am." 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. 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."

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

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

The LORD called Samuel a third time, 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. 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.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

2) GOD WOULD SPEAK TO US REGULARLY

- **Once God started speaking to Samuel, He continued to communicate. (1 Samuel 3:19-21)**
- **God wants to communicate with us regularly as we abide in Christ. (John 15:4-7)**

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

3) GOD WANTS A WILLING LISTENER

- Eli told Samuel to say to the Lord, "**Speak.**"
- In other words, Samuel was to be willing to hear from the Lord.
- God wants a willing listener.
- God wants his servants to listen for His voice.

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

4) GOD WANTS A YIELDED LISTENER

- Eli told Samuel to say **“Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”**
- Jesus is Lord and He has every right to instruct and command us.
- We are also the Lord's servants.
- If we are the Lord's servants, we must therefore be yielded to His plans for our lives.

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

5) GOD WANTS AN ATTENTIVE LISTENER

- Samuel was told to say "Your servant is listening."
- In other words, Samuel was to be alert.

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

- **He was to be desirous of hearing what the Lord had to say.**
- **He was to listen with a "ready ear".**
- **We are to listen to God, trying to get as much from Him as we can.**
- **For God to speak, we are to hang on every word.**

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

SUMMARY:

- **God speaks to us at “quiet times” and He wants to speak to us “regularly”.**
- **God wants a willing, yielded, and attentive listener.**

- **LET’S PRAY:**