

[Guess the Sound Game | 20 Sounds to Guess](#) (do about 7 of them)

[\(306\) God Speaks to Samuel - YouTube](#)

Samuel didn't recognize God's voice at first even though he had been serving God in the temple for years. Just like Samuel, it can be hard to know when you are hearing God's voice. Especially at the beginning.

#TargetPractice: How can we hear God's voice?

- Read God's Word
 - How were you able to know what the sounds were at the beginning of the lesson? Most of them were things you have heard a lot of times. Therefore, it was easy to recognize them.
 - When we read the Bible consistently, we learn who God is. Then we are able to know if something we hear is from God, because God will never ask you to do something that goes against His Word.
 - Also, God speaks to us through His Word. When you are reading, God will highlight (not literally) things that He wants you to notice. You may feel convicted or inspired to take a step.

- Pray daily (talk to God but also listen)
 - Do you have a friend or maybe cousin you don't see or talk to often? What is it like when you do get to see them? Usually it takes a while to feel comfortable talking to them and you seem to lose track of what is important to them.
 - Praying is our way of communicating with God. We need to talk to Him about anything and everything that concerns us. But we shouldn't do all the talking. We should be listening too.

- Be still - quiet moments
 - Is it easy to listen to someone tell you something important when you have the TV on? Playing a video game? Reading a book? Playing sports? Doing homework? When you are busy, it is hard to listen closely to someone. Your attention is divided.
 - In order to listen to God, we need to be still and quiet. We need to get rid of distractions in order to focus on Him and His voice.

- Obey quickly
 - When your parents ask you to do something like clean off the table after supper, do they want it done then or sometime next week? They expect it quickly right? Does it go well when you complain or delay? Not usually. Things go smoother and your relationship with your parents is better when you obey quickly.

- It is the same way with God. When we obey His commands and will quickly, our relationship is better. We are also more able to hear His voice in the future.
- Stay close to God at all times
 - The more time you spend with someone, the more you know them (likes, dislikes) and the more comfortable you are with them.
 - The more time you spend with God, the better you know Him and His will. Talking with Him is easier and listening is as well.

If we have doubts about whether or not we are hearing God's voice, going to a trusted follower of God for counsel and advice is a good idea. We all have to start somewhere and learn.

Samuel listened to Eli and learned from Him. However, Samuel continued to be open to hearing God's voice. He spent time in God's presence and learned to hear God's voice all on his own. Samuel became one of God's prophets. He is the one who listened to God about who to place as king over Israel (Saul). He was also the one who God told that Saul would no longer be king and to go anoint a new king. That king was the young shepherd boy, David. We will talk about him more next week.

Just because you are young does not mean God cannot begin talking to you. In fact, He wants to!! You just have to be willing to listen.

Pray