



Called by Name
ISAIAH 43:1

The LORD came and stood there. He called out, just as he had done the other times. He said, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel replied, “Speak. I’m listening.”

—1 Samuel 3:10 NIV

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Old Testament Devotion

Samuel: Called to Listen

Samuel was a young boy being raised by a priest named Eli. One night, Samuel heard someone call his name and he thought it was Eli. So, Samuel went and asked Eli what he needed, but Eli had not called him! This happened to Samuel three times that night.

- **Have you ever been deep in thought when someone said your name and you didn’t hear them right away?**
- **Have you ever been sleeping and didn’t hear your name called?**

After the third time Samuel came to Eli, Eli realized what was happening. He knew no one else could be calling Samuel except God. So Eli told Samuel if he heard his name again to say, “Speak; I’m listening.”

- **Can you imagine what it would be like to hear God speak?**
- **How do you think you would feel if you heard God call out your name?**
- **What do you think you would say to God if he called out your name?**

God called Samuel four times that night long ago. God was patient with Samuel; finally, Samuel understood and listened to what God was telling him. God patiently calls us, too. God calls us to listen to him and understand what he wants us to do. God may not shout out our names loud and clear, but he does come to us in other ways. God calls us through his Word, the Bible, and he places his plan before us as we trust in him.

- **Have you ever thought God was calling you or telling you to do something?**
- **If so, did it take a while to realize God was trying to tell you something, or did you know it right away?**
- **Can you think of another time God was patient with you?**
- **What are some things listed in the Bible God calls us to do?**

When we are baptized, God calls us into his family. Through baptism, we are forgiven and we belong to him. We become part of his family forever.

- **Have you ever been baptized?**
- **If so, were you baptized as a baby or were you older?**
- **How do you remember your baptism? Do you have pictures or do you have people who remind you of your baptism?**
- **If you are not baptized, would you like to be called into God’s family?**
- **Who could help you get baptized?**

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for calling us by name. Help us listen and know what you want us to do. We thank you for calling each of our names through baptism. We are blessed to belong to you! Help us point others to you and encourage them to hear your voice when you call them. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.