

God Speaks to Samuel (I wrote this story)

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Did God give Hannah that baby that she wanted so badly? Yes He did. He gave her a little baby boy that she named Samuel

Did Hannah keep her promise? Yes she did. When Samuel was old enough, she took him back to the temple and left him with a man named Eli.

Now we all remember who Eli is don't we? That's right, he was a priest that lived in the temple and served God. Eli was a good man. He loved God with all his heart. He was a wonderful servant of God.

Eli was the person who was to take care of Samuel and teach him everything he needed to know about serving God.

Now I have another question for you. Suppose you are in your room and suddenly you hear your Mommy call your name. What do you do? You run quickly to see what she wants don't you? Maybe she needs some help with carrying in the groceries. Maybe she wants you to help set the table for dinner, or maybe it is time to go somewhere.

You come when you hear you name, don't you?

Well that is exactly what Samuel did too. Remember Samuel lived in the temple with Eli. Eli was getting to be an old man and he probably needed Samuel's help a lot. So whenever he heard Eli call his name, Samuel was off and running to see what he needed.

One night Samuel had just finished getting ready for bed. He climbed into bed and probably stretched out like we all do. "AHHHH" he may have said. "It is sooo good to get to bed." But no sooner had Samuel gotten all comfy and cozy when he heard someone calling "SAMUEL, SAMUEL."

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“Samuel, Samuel,” But this time, Samuel did not run to Eli, he didn’t even have to get out of bed. He simply said “Speak, Lord, for the servant heareth.”

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Now Samuel knew exactly who was calling him. It was the Lord.

Do we ever hear God speak to us like that today?

Do we ever hear Him call out loud to us? No

So how do we know when God is speaking to us?

How do we know when God is wanting us to do something?

Or even better yet, how do we know when He doesn’t want us to do something?

Well, one of the best ways that I can explain when God is calling ME to do something is by putting a desire into my heart.

Perhaps there is a need in the church...like a teaching position or a need for someone to lead a new program or something like that.

It sounds kind of interesting but just because I am interested in this new job, doesn't mean that God is calling ME to fill that position.

So how can I know if God is calling ME to fill the position?

By asking Him.

By sitting down and spending time with God in prayer.

Each morning, about 6:15 I go out and sit on my front porch and talk with God.

Sometimes I spend the whole time praying and sometimes I spend the whole time just sitting and talking to God. And listening...not for a real voice...as He used to speak with Samuel, but for the quiet little whispers, the thoughts that He places in my head.

The soft little breezes that I feel on my face, that lets me know that He is near.

I am a person who likes to be busy. I rush, rush, rush
all day long.

If I don't STOP and take time to talk with God, I will
never know what He wants me to do.

Another way that God talks with me is by showing
me something over and over again to get my
attention.

Like I said, I like to rush, rush, rush.

And during my rushing...I have seen or heard one
particular scripture verse over and over and over
again.

Who can guess what scripture would be good for a
person who rushes and rushes and rushes?

“Be still and know that I am God”

I have seen this scripture on billboard, on signs, in
songs, in sermons, on tv, written on items in Hobby
Lobby or the Bible Book store, as well as many,
many other places.

I think that this is God's way of telling me to STOP,
SLOW DOWN, SPEND TIME WITH ME!

He loves me....and He loves you...and all He wants
is for us to STOP and spend some time with Him.

ALWAYS know that when God is speaking to you, it
will ALWAYS be something good.

If you feel that God is speaking and you think that He
is telling you to do something bad...then STOP.

Because it is NOT God speaking to you...it is in
fact...SATAN.

God would NEVER tell you to do something wrong.

Another way that I have found that God speaks to me
is by closing doors.

I may be wanting something to happen and I may be
trying and trying and trying to make it happen but for
some reason, nothing seems to be working out.

Why? Because it is not God's will for my life.

If the doors are closing, closing, closing on something that I am trying to do. Then quite possibly...it is not God's will.

I need to STOP and spend some time with God.

I need to ask His will and I need to search my own heart.

For example; recently a position became available here in the church, I prayed about it and prayed about it, but God wasn't giving me a good feeling about it.

I knew that there was a BIG need, so I started thinking about the position and wondering if I would be the right person for the job.

Several people told me that they were praying about me taking the job and soon, I starting thinking that maybe that was where I was supposed to serve.

I talked with Brother Randy about it and thought that maybe I would give it a try.

BUT do you know what was wrong with that kind of attitude? It wasn't God calling me, it was ME calling me. There was a need...I was a person CAPABLE of

filling the job...so why not? Pride was getting the better of me, wasn't it?

God was not calling me to the position, I was calling me to the position.

I was considering giving up WHAT I KNEW GOD had called me to do in order to fill a position that God had not called me to do.

I was about to make a BIG mistake.

BUT...fortunately, I STOPPED and spent time with God before I made that big step.

I talked, and talked and talked, waiting for God to give me a peaceful feeling about this change.

But...God never gave me that peace...He never gave me the assurance that I wanted.

I was wanting Him to give me the go ahead...but He never did.

In fact, He gave me something completely opposite.

He gave me the assurance that teaching children was where He wanted me to be.

It was where my joy, my passion and my happiness
was.

He gave me a whole new joy about what I am already
doing.

Soooo, needless to say, I changed my mind about
switching positions.

I realized that I am serving in exactly the spot that
God wants me to serve...and I love it.

You see, sometimes God gives us a peaceful feeling.
And we know that we are doing His will.

But sometimes He gives us no feelings at all...which
is a very good sign that we are doing something that
is not in His plan for our lives.

To end my story...once I realized that I was about to
make a BIG mistake, I told Brother Randy that I
would help out wherever I could, but that I realized
that this was not where I was supposed to serve after
all.

After I made that decision...God placed such
happiness and joy in my heart. I was singing and
humming and happy all week long.

Another way that God speaks to us is through the Bible. The Bible is God's Words to us. The Bible tells us everything that God wants us to know.

It is very important that we read our Bibles and that we do what the Bible says to do.

When we read the Bible and listen with our hearts, like Samuel, God will speak to us too.

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Now we all remember who Eli is don't we? That's right, he was a priest that lived in the temple and served God. Eli was a good man. He loved God with all his heart. He was a wonderful servant of God.

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Over the past few weeks, we have been doing a series called Mini Pumpkins...the reason our series is called “mini” pumpkins is because mini pumpkins are small...their mini.

Now they may be “mini” but they can be used for some mighty things...the same way that God can use a “mini” person...a child to do great things.

Over the last several weeks, God has been using all of you to do some great and mighty things.

You may not realize it but when you guys have brought cans of food...or the story books that you were finished with...or the socks that you brought...or the pennies and nickels and dimes that you brought last week...GOD was using you to do some great and mighty things.

This week, I took some of the food that you have brought...and I put it in some “Little Free Pantries” that are located around town. (Show PP Slide)

I took all the pennies and nickels and dimes that you brought to the bank and had it counted...and you guys brought \$329.56 worth of coins...that will feed over 1300 orphans in foreign countries.
(Show PP Slide)

I took the socks that you brought and they are going to a place called the Van...who will take our socks and go out on the streets to pass out YOUR warm socks to people who are living on the street...people who have no place to live...who are cold and hungry.

Next week, we will start our Mr. Rogers Neighborhood sweater drive...sweaters, coats and hoodies...and those will go to children who do not have a coat...who go to school without a nice warm coat...and YOUR coats will be handed out to these children,

So God can DEFINITELY use those who are Mini...those who are children...can't he?

AND guess what? That's not all...

...in a week or two, we will be at Hobby Lobby ringing the bell for the Salvation Army...how many of you have rang the bell for the Salvation Army?

(Sign Up)

We will also be collecting Oodles of Noodles which will also go to help those who are hungry.

AND during our AWANA program, we will be doing a drive.

And of course our "Pop Tarts and Pajama's day...we will be bringing boxes of Pop Tarts and wearing out Pajama's

So, YES...God can use children.

Which leads me to our story today...

Do you think our story today is about an adult or a child?

That's right...it's about a child...and his name is
Samuel.

Samuel was one of those babies that was prayed for
and prayed for and prayed for...and finally...that
prayer was answered.

You see, Samuel's mom was not able to have
children...and she wanted a child more than anything
else in the world.

Hannah wanted a baby so badly that she would even
go to the temple and PRAYED for a baby.

In her prayers, she promised God that if He would
give her a baby...she would bring him back to the
temple when he was old enough and leave him there
to serve God's in whatever way He chose to use him

And one day...God answered

He gave her a little baby boy that she named Samuel

Do you think that Hannah kept her promise? Yes, she
did. When Samuel was old enough, she took him
back to the temple and left him with a man named
Eli.

Eli was a priest that lived in the temple and served God. He was a good man. He loved God with all his heart. He was a wonderful servant of God.

Eli was the person who was to take care of Samuel and teach him everything he needed to know about serving God....and Samuel...took care of Eli as well.

You see, Eli was getting quite old...and he probably needed Samuel's help a lot.

So, whenever Samuel heard Eli call his name, Samuel was off and running to see what he needed.

One night Samuel had just finished getting ready for bed. He climbed into bed and probably stretched out like we all do.

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Do we ever hear God speak to us like that today?

Does He stand and talk to us as He did to Samuel?

No, God speaks to us differently than when He spoke to Samuel.

First...He speaks to our hearts...sometimes, we feel things...very strongly...and when we do...that is God speaking to us.

For instance...when we see someone cold or hungry and we do something to help them...like give them a warm coat...or give them something to eat...that is because God has spoken to our hearts.

If we have an “overpowering desire” a “strong” desire to serve somewhere in our church...such as in the nursery...or with youth or children...or on the hospitality committee...or driving the bus...that is God speaking to our hearts.

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God calls to all of us through the Bible. The Bible is God's Word; it tells us who we are, who God is, and why we need Jesus.

When you read the Bible, you discover that God loves you and wants to save you from sin.

This is God's call, and God is waiting for your answer.

Answering God's call is as simple as saying, "Here I am," but if we don't take that first step, we will miss the blessings God has planned for us.

God can't use us to do anything until we answer His call.

When you say, "Here I am," you become God's Servant.

You become a child who can minister to younger kids, adults, and your community.

It all starts with a simple prayer and a simple response to God's Word.

God is calling you by name. He wants to save you from your sin, and He wants to use you to spread His message.

If you hear God calling you today, answer Him. Sit up, look to Heaven, and say the words, "Here I am!"

(If time, give my testimony about praying and saying "Here I am" to God)

If time, talk about the things that we have been doing to earn love bucks...and challenge the kids to look at the things that we are collecting and realize what it is really for...not just love bucks.

Challenge them to come up with things that we can do next year to help others.

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God Speaks to Samuel Questions

1. What was the boy's name on our story today? Samuel
2. Where did Samuel live? In the temple
3. Who did Samuel live with? Eli
4. One night when Samuel climbed into bed to go to sleep, he heard something. What did he hear? Someone calling his name
5. Who did Samuel think was calling his name? Eli
6. What did Samuel do when he heard his name being called? He got up quickly and ran to see what Eli wanted
7. When Samuel went to Eli's room, he said "Here I am, I heard you call my name." But what did Eli say? He said that he did not call him and that he should go back to bed
8. When Samuel went back to his bed, he heard someone call his name again. What did he do this time? He ran back to Eli's room again and said "Here I am, You called me."
9. What did Eli say this time? He said that he did not call him and that he should go back to bed again
10. After Samuel heard his name being called a third time, he went to Eli again. Eli was very puzzled and then he figured out who it was that was calling Samuel. Who was it? God
11. What did Eli tell Samuel to do next? Go back to his room and when he heard his name being called again, Samuel was to say "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth."
12. Did Samuel obey Eli? Yes
13. Did God speak to Samuel again? Yes
14. What did Samuel say when God called his name again? "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth."
15. Why did God speak to Samuel? He had a special message for him
16. God does not speak to us the same way He spoke to Samuel. How does God speak to us? God speaks to us through the Bible







"Unto thee will I pray"
Psalm 5:2b

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Samuel's bed Craft

Before Class

Run copies of Samuel (Enclosed)

Run copies of Samuel's bed (brown construction paper) (Enclosed)

Run copies of verse 1 Samuel 3:2-4 (Enclosed)

Cut out all of the above

Lay a copy of Samuel onto the bed, using a hole punch, punch a hole through both Samuel (near his feet) and Samuel's bed. This will make a pivot spot where Samuel will raise up and lay back down.

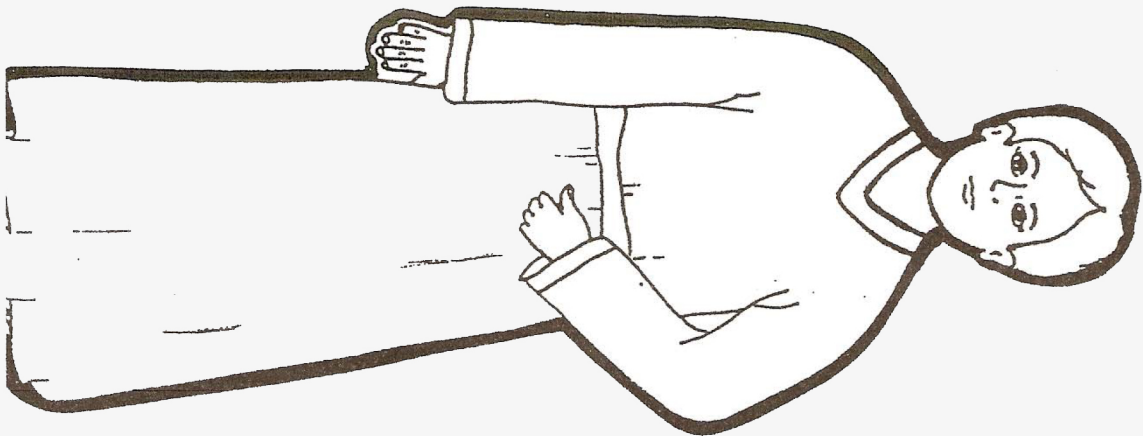
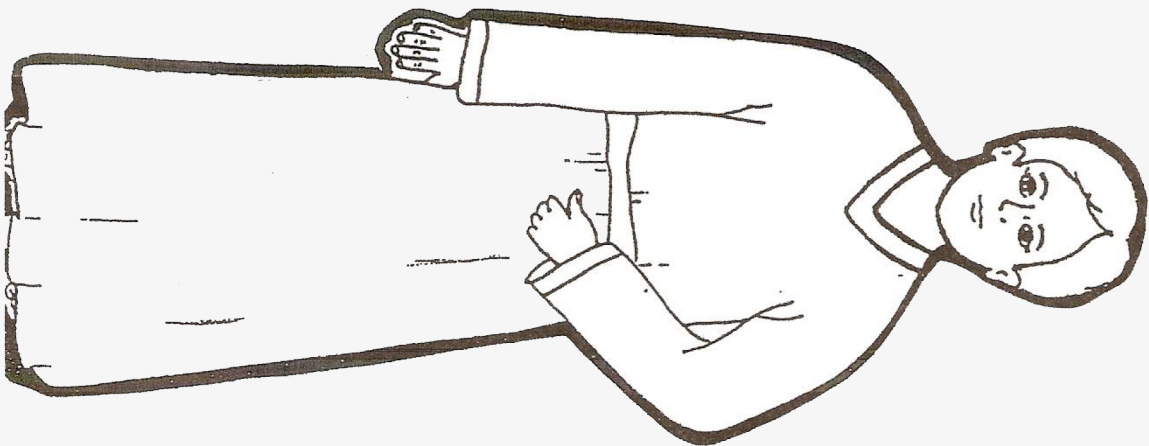
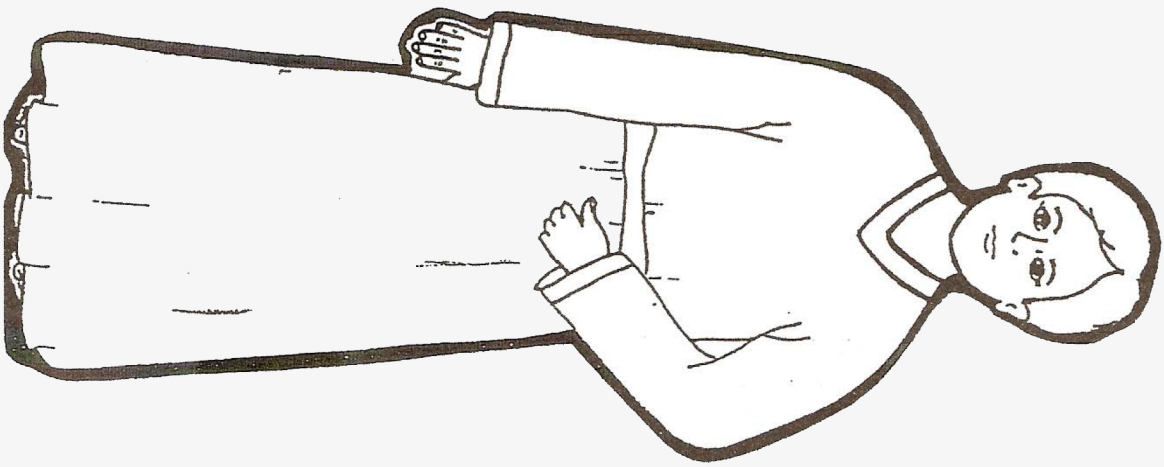
Gather: Brads, Glue, Paper reinforcements, crayons

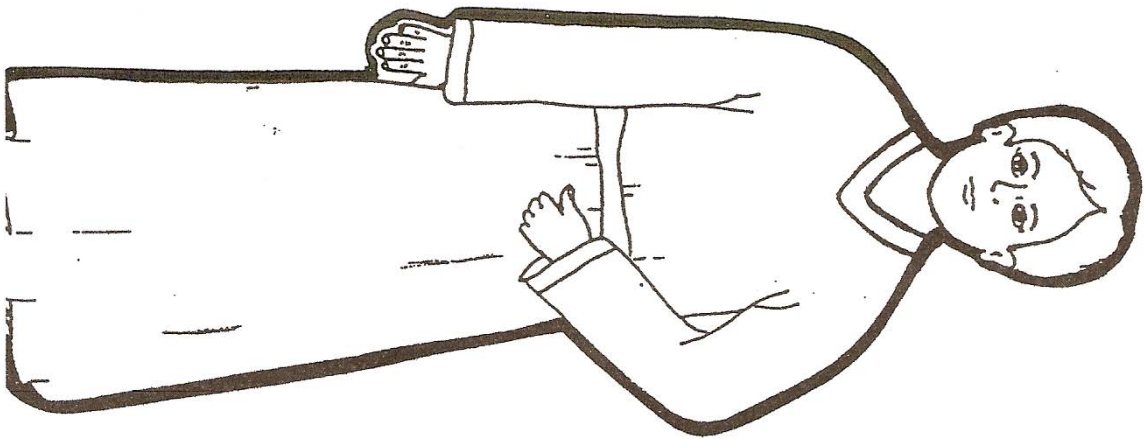
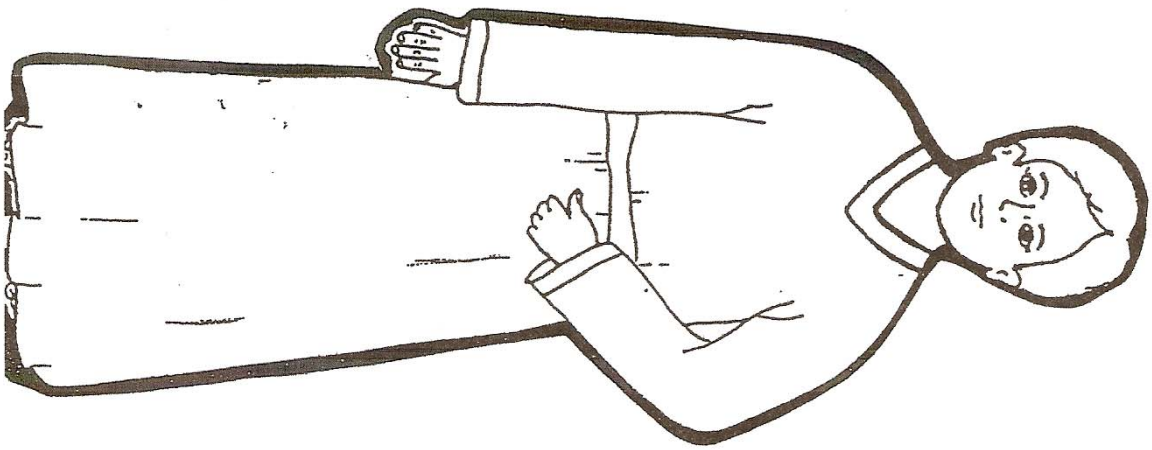
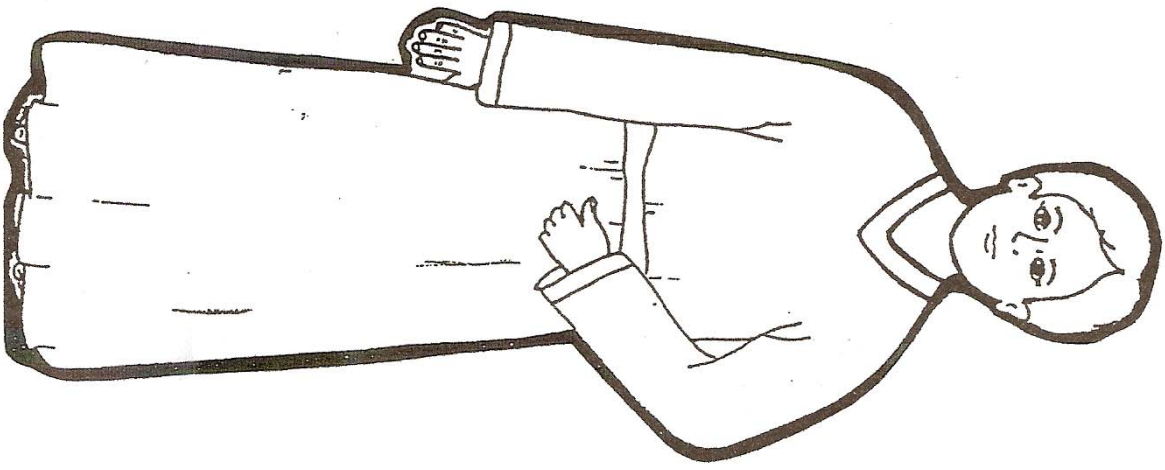
Distribute a copy of Samuel, Samuel's Bed, one brad, 1 verse, 2 paper reinforcements

Child's Part:

1. Have the children color Samuel
2. Have the children put a paper reinforcement around the hole in Samuel's feet and another around the hole in Samuel's bed.
3. Have the children put the brad through both holes. Brad should be inserted through the front and closed at the back
4. Have the children glue their verse on the top edge of the bed (See Sample)

Note: When finished with craft, use it to review the story. Allow the children to move their Samuel out of bed and then back into bed each time you say "He went back to bed" or "He jumped out of bed"





1 Samuel 3:2-4

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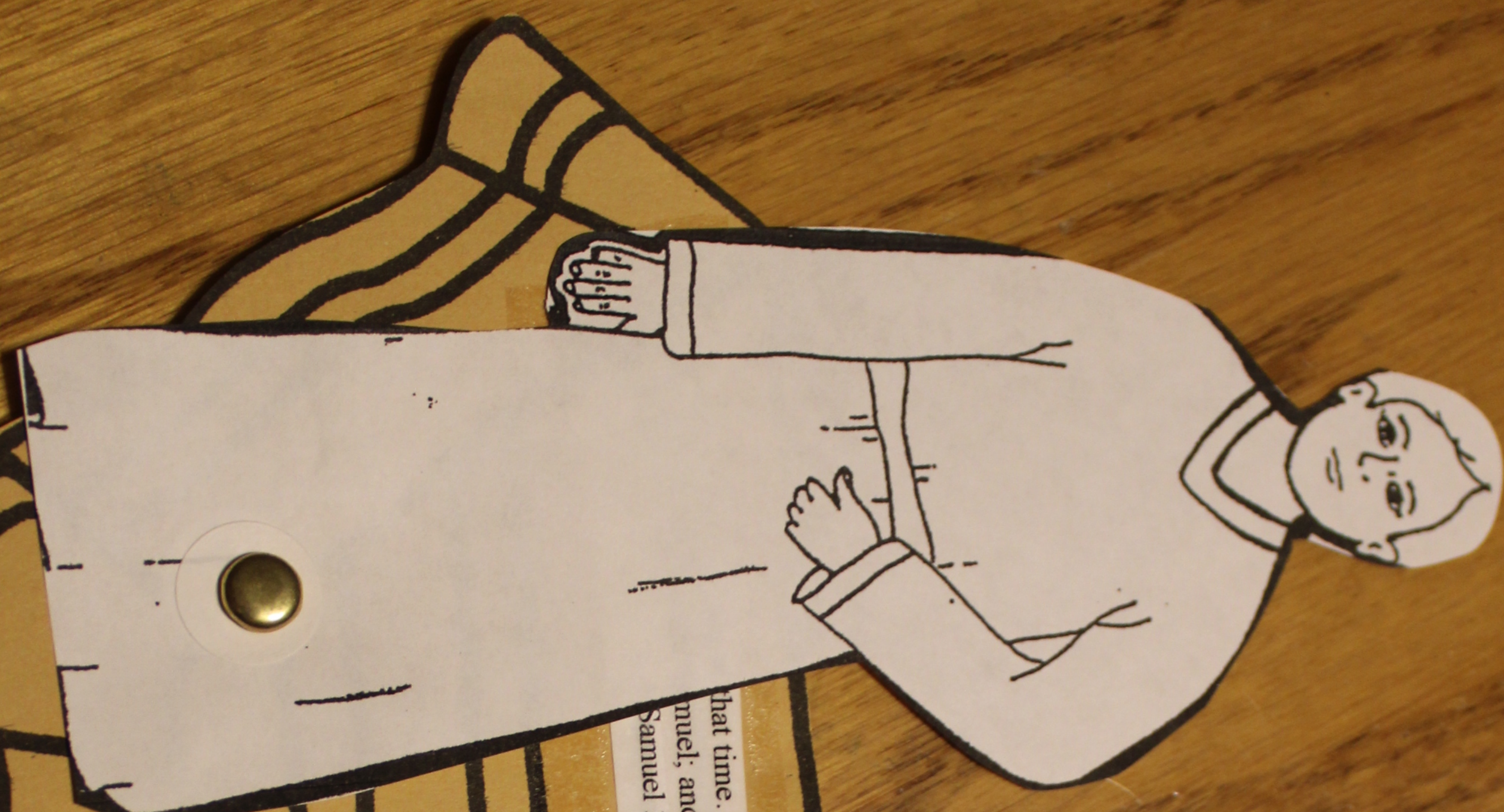
1 Samuel 3:2-4

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Use while telling story -



that time... Samuel was laid down to sleep,
nuel; and he answered, "Here am I."
Samuel 3:2-4

And it came to pass at that time... Samuel was laid down to sleep;
That the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, "Here am I."
1 Samuel 3:2-4





And it came to pass at that time... Samuel was laid down to sleep,
That the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, "Here am I."
1 Samuel 3:2-4





And it came to pass at that time... Samuel was laid down to sleep;
That the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, "Here am I."
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