



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Teacher Page: Speak, for Your Servant Hears

1 Samuel 3:8-20 (English Standard Version)

Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using 1 Samuel 3:8-20 in the English Standard Version as the reading text.

New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 3:8-20 ESV

Scripture Audio: 1 Samuel 3:8-20 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: The LORD called Samuel, and Eli taught him how to respond. God gave Samuel a serious message about judgment on Eli's household. Samuel faithfully told Eli everything, and all Israel recognized Samuel as a prophet of the LORD.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, sequencing events, reporting speech, discussion, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: The student can identify the main people and events, describe Samuel's response to God, and explain why he told Eli the whole message.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

This passage includes God's judgment, the sins of Eli's sons, and Eli's failure to restrain them. Explain difficult words simply and sensitively. Distinguish Samuel's faithful listening and truthfulness from the wrongdoing in Eli's household.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Put the principal events in chronological order.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ How do you show someone that you are listening carefully?
- ☐ Who has helped you understand something important?
- ☐ Why can telling the truth sometimes be difficult?
- ☐ What makes a person trustworthy?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
perceived	Understood or recognized something.	What did Eli perceive?
servant	A person who serves another.	How did Samuel describe himself?
tingle	Feel a slight prickling sensation; here, react to shocking news.	What would happen to the ears of those who heard?
iniquity	Sin or wrongdoing.	Whose iniquity did God describe?
restrain	Hold back or stop someone from doing wrong.	Whom did Eli fail to restrain?
atoned for	Dealt with through a sacrifice for sin.	What did God say about sacrifice or offering?
vision	A message or revelation from God.	Why was Samuel afraid to tell the vision?
prophet	A person who speaks God's message.	What did all Israel know about Samuel?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ To whom did Samuel go when the LORD called the third time?
- ☐ What did Eli realize about the voice Samuel heard?
- ☐ What did Eli tell Samuel to say if God called again?
- ☐ How did Samuel answer when the LORD called his name?
- ☐ What did God say He would do concerning Eli's household?
- ☐ Why did God say He would punish Eli's household?
- ☐ What did Samuel do in the morning, and why was he afraid?
- ☐ What did Eli ask Samuel to tell him?
- ☐ Did Samuel hide any part of God's message from Eli?
- ☐ What did all Israel know about Samuel?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ How did Eli help Samuel recognize and respond to God's call?
- ☐ What does Samuel's answer show about his willingness to listen?
- ☐ What responsibility had Eli failed to carry out toward his sons?
- ☐ Why was it important for Samuel to tell Eli the whole message?
- ☐ How did Eli respond to the message Samuel told him?
- ☐ What does it mean that none of Samuel's words fell to the ground?

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a fuller response: 'Can you tell me more?' 'Why do you think that?' 'What happened next?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell 1 Samuel 3:8-20 in your own words.
- ☐ Describe Samuel and Eli using three complete sentences.
- ☐ With a partner, read the dialogue between Samuel and Eli.
- ☐ Explain why Samuel was afraid and what he did afterward.
- ☐ Put these events in order: God calls, Eli advises, Samuel listens, Samuel tells, Israel recognizes.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: Why is it important to listen carefully and tell the truth?

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize 1 Samuel 3:8-20 in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph about Samuel's willingness to listen and tell the truth.
- ☐ Option C: Write the main events in chronological order.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words: perceived, servant, restrain, vision, and prophet.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

Eli recognized that the LORD was calling Samuel and taught him how to respond. Samuel listened to God's message about Eli's household. Although he was afraid, Samuel told Eli everything. The LORD was with Samuel, and all Israel recognized him as a prophet.

Remember

"Listen carefully to God's Word, and speak the truth faithfully, even when it is difficult."

Final Question

What can Samuel's example teach us about listening to God and faithfully telling the truth?