

Learning to Hear God's Voice

Greetings!

A passage in the First Book of Samuel states that during that time “the word of the Lord was scarce and vision infrequent” (3:1-3). As the story proceeds, we see that young Samuel needs guidance to understand that it is God who is calling him and what his response to God should be.

Just like Samuel, it can be hard for us to hear God's call and know how to respond to it. To interpret what we are experiencing, we need to be guided just as Samuel needed Eli to show him the way. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and other important people in the lives of children can aid them in considering how God is calling them.

These guides can point out that Scripture helps us recognize God's voice. In becoming familiar with how God has acted in history, we learn to recognize how God is acting today.

A person's gifts are messages from God about who they are called to be.

Children can be assisted too in learning the importance of reflecting on their lives to see God's presence. Each one of us has a call from God. When it comes to discerning that call, it would help if there were large flashing signs with arrows pointing the way. Unfortunately, like Samuel, we live in a time when vision is infrequent. Instead, we have to reflect on our gifts, which come from God, and on what makes our life more joyful, more meaningful, more peaceful, and more generous. What holiness looks like for one person will be different than what it looks like for someone else. A person's gifts and the things that make them truly happy are messages from God about who they are called to be.

Because we are physical beings, we need physical signs of God's presence. Sharing where we saw God in our day can attune us to these signs. Around the table at dinner, you might ask each person to share where he or she saw God's



Parents can talk with their children to help them see how God has called them throughout the day.

presence that day. Often, this will be in something beautiful in nature. It is also common to feel God's presence while with other people. Reflecting on God's presence with our family makes us more aware of how God is acting in our lives.

God is always calling us. Like Samuel, we must learn to hear God's voice as well as how to respond to the call.