

Here I Am!  
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20

Once a boy named Samuel lived in God's temple with Eli, the priest. Samuel slept in a room where a lamp burned, all night long. One night, he heard a voice calling, "Samuel! Samuel!"

He got up and ran to where Eli slept. "Here I am, sir," said Samuel.

Eli opened his eyes. "Go back to bed," he yawned. "I didn't call you."

Back in bed, he again heard, "Samuel! Samuel!"

So he ran to Eli's bed once again. "Here I am, sir."

Now Eli was cranky. "I told you—I didn't call you!"

So Samuel went back to bed. A third time that night, he heard the voice call, "Samuel! Samuel!" This was crazy! He ran to Eli's bed again.

This time Eli knew who was calling Samuel. "Go back to bed. When you hear the voice again, say 'Speak, God; I'm listening.'"

This time when God called, Samuel knew exactly who it was and he listened. When he grew up, everyone knew he was a prophet sent from God.