

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Festival of First Fruits: Celebrating God as Trustworthy

The Festival of First Fruits was one of the yearly feasts God commanded His people to celebrate. During First Fruits, the people took the first of their harvested crops and gave them to the Lord to thank Him for His trustworthiness throughout the year.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD SPEAKS

Samuel

1 Samuel 3

God came to Samuel and spoke to him during the night.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Samuel is referred to in 1 Samuel 2:18 as a boy. Some scholars speculate he may have been as young as three or four years of age when his parents brought him to the temple.
- Ephods were sacred religious garments that indicated priestly service. In ancient times, an outer garment marked the wearer as bearing a particular status or role of significance.
- Samuel's ephod specified him as having entered the priestly service as an apprentice.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Have your children wait in another room. Call their names using a funny voice or a silly nickname, or by singing. When your children come, give them a hug and send them back to the other room. Repeat, calling them in several different ways. Then **read 1 Samuel 3:1–10**. When you finish reading, explain to your children that God wants to talk to them too! It may not sound exactly like what Samuel heard, but God will speak in many ways. Share the ways God may use to speak to them: the Bible, prayer, His Holy Spirit, and others.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- How did Samuel know God was calling him?
- What do you think God's voice sounds like?
- What do you think God wants to say to you?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Speaks into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

**Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."
Isaiah 30:21**

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you always hear and know God's voice. May His words stay with you as you trust Him each day.**

For more information about blessing your child, talk to your ministry leader or see *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony.