

### Bible Reading

Year B, Pentecost 2

By Beth Barnett

This is a Bible Reading engagement for 1 Samuel 3:1-11.  
Use this resource during Early Word or Bible Reading times.

You will need:

- Copy of text on screen or printed with the words beginning with the letter s highlighted in blue and all the other words hidden
- Copy of entire text on screen or printed with the words beginning with the letter s highlighted in blue
- Copy of text on screen or printed with key words highlighted in various colours but all other words hidden
- Copy of entire text on screen or printed with key words in various colours
- (a prepared powerpoint containing all this is included in the Visions and Voices Resource Zip)

Time required:

7-10 minutes

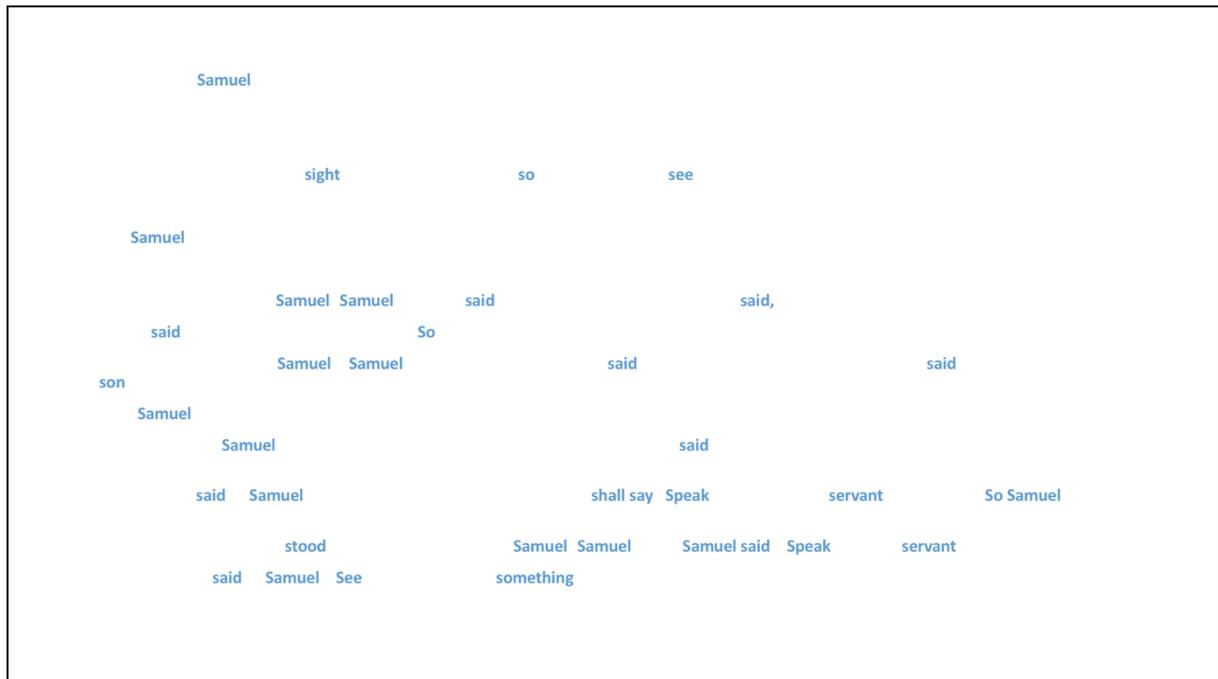
### Introduction

Here we have our Bible reading for today - which I'm going to invite all the grown ups to read together. This shouldn't be too hard, but just to be sure we keep together on this, I've asked [name] to lead us.

The words are on the screen - so grown ups could you read for us please.

*Lead reading of just the blue words.*

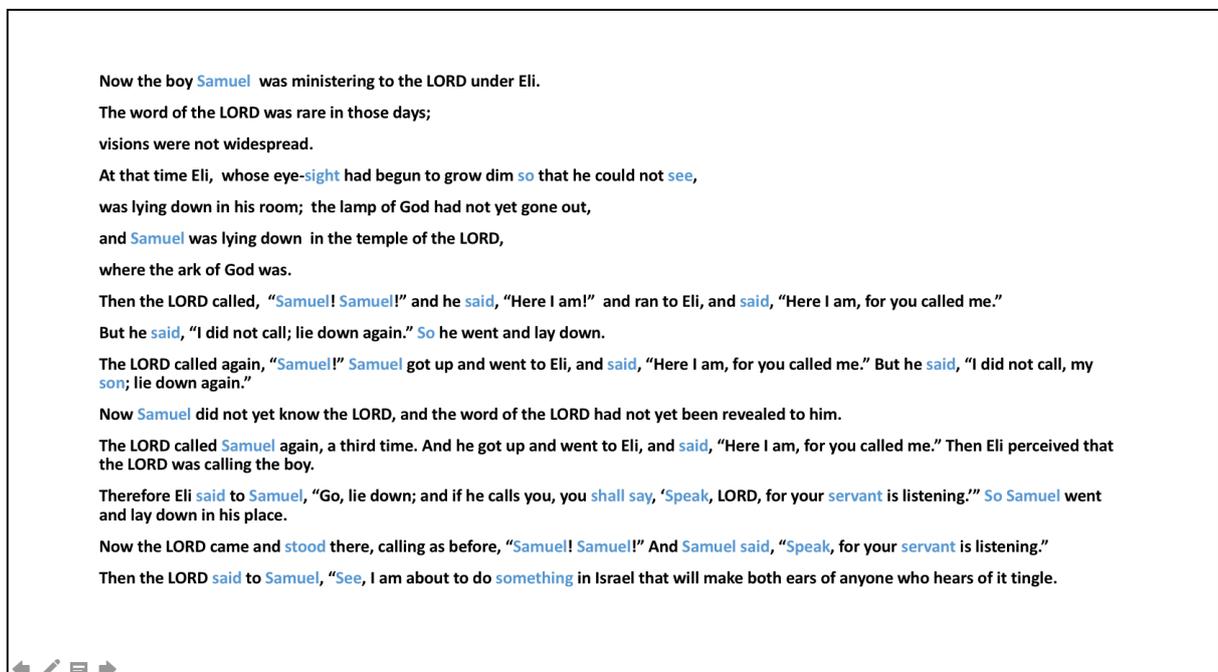
Eg:



Thanks, grown-ups. Although, it does seem that quite a bit of the message has been hidden. Let's see if we can uncover that...

*Move to next screen with full text in black with words beginning with S highlighted.*

Eg:



Great! You know, in this story that we are about to read, the adults Eli and his grown up sons had lost sight of God's message. And it was the child, Samuel, who God gave a message to.

So as we read this part from the Bible, and listen for what God is saying to us today, let's have not just the grown-ups, but also the children reading the words in blue while our leader-reader reads the rest of the text in black.

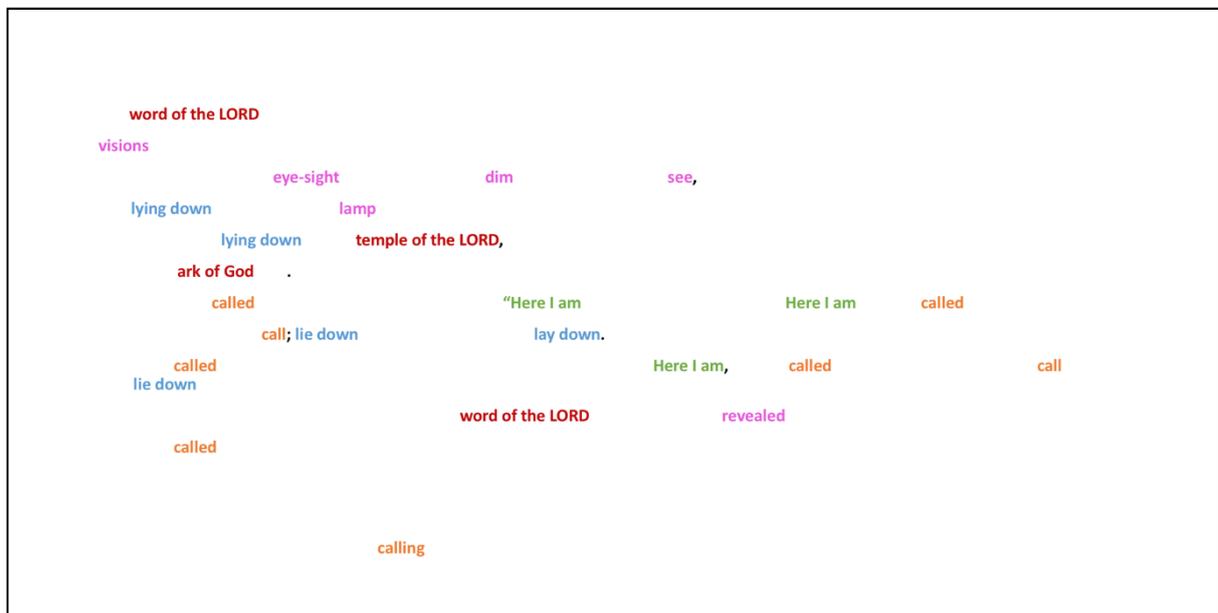
*Read the text together*

Much better having the children read with us, all together, and its much better when bits aren't hidden, right?

We are going to read it through again, because there is more to uncover in this story.

*Display text with various coloured words (but everything else hidden)*

*Eg:*



But to do that, I'm going to divide you into 5 teams.

Team 1, you're going to read out the words in BLUE – these are words about lying down

Team 2, you're going to read out the words in PINK – these are words about seeing/vision/light

Team 3, you're going to read out the words written in ORANGE – these are words about calling

Team 4, you're going to read out the words in GREEN – they are the phrase "Here I am!"

Team 5, you're going to read out the words in RED – these are words about the things "of the Lord/ of God"

Let's just take a quick minute to read through the words on the screen and find your words... Let's have a quick practice:

Team 1! Let's read out all the blue words, one at a time!  
(repeat for each team)

Ok, let's put it all together, let's read these words in order...

Alright... one more time. I'm (or the leader-reader) going to read the black words, and you jump in with the words from your team.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli.  
The **word of the LORD** was rare in those days;  
**visions** were not widespread.  
At that time Eli, whose **eye-sight** had begun to grow **dim** so that he could not **see**,  
was **lying down** in his room; the **lamp** of God had not yet gone out,  
and Samuel was **lying down** in the **temple of the LORD**,  
where the **ark of God** was.  
Then the LORD **called**, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "**Here I am!**" and ran to Eli, and said, "**Here I am**, for you **called** me."  
But he said, "I did not **call**; **lie down** again." So he went and **lay down**.  
The LORD **called** again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "**Here I am**, for you **called** me." But he said, "I did not **call**, my son; **lie down** again."  
Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the **word of the LORD** had not yet been **revealed** to him.  
The LORD **called** Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "**Here I am**, for you **called** me." Then Eli **perceived** that the LORD was **calling** the boy.  
Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, **lie down**; and if he **calls** you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and **lay down** in his place.  
Now the LORD came and stood there, **calling** as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."  
Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

Great job, teams! We have helped each other hear the word of God is different ways!  
Our children have been important in our listening, our grownups have been helpful in our hearing.  
Let's pray:

**Loving God,  
You speak to us when we are half asleep and least expecting you.  
You speak to us in darkness  
You speak to us even before we know you  
You speak to us as children  
You speak to us again when we didn't get it the first time  
You speak to us not only for ourselves but with words for others  
May we listen for your voice, and find our voice of 'Here I am' for you.  
Amen.**

