



## THIS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

There are many stories in the bible of men and women putting their faith into action and achieving great things for God. In this program, we are learning about some of these 'heroes of the faith' listed in Hebrews 11. Our heart is that kids will see the many ways they can activate their faith in their lives, learning from these great men and women who have gone before us. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. We don't trust our feelings, or what the circumstance looks like - instead we have faith in God!

**Our Repeated phrase is:** In this program we are looking at heroes in the bible who stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.

**Memory Verse:** "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"- Hebrews 11:1

## WEEK 9: SAMUEL

Today we meet our next hero of the faith, Samuel. Samuel was a young boy but God had a purpose for his life. Samuel demonstrated great faithfulness by not just hearing, but listening to God's voice. Samuel is a great example of how it takes some fine tuning to know God's voice, but we should always be listening to hear Him speak to us. **Faith is tuning in to God's voice.**

### RESOURCES

- A radio for the illustration
- A bible, colouring pencils and the Week 9 worksheet for connect groups

### PREACH OUTLINE

**Story:** Share the story of Samuel as a young boy hearing God's voice and learning to recognise it, found in 1 Samuel 3: 1 - 21.

#### Points to hit:

1. **Faith is tuning in to God's voice.** It took Samuel a little while to learn what it feels like when God is speaking. Have you ever had many people speak to you at one time, telling you to do something and had no idea who to listen to? We have to 'tune in' to hear just one voice speaking to us. Often we will hear God's voice in the quiet times we spend with Him. It's like a thought that you hear that's not your own. God speaks kindly to us and when He asks us to do something, it is good for us, or good for others.
2. **When God speaks to us we need to respond.** When God is speaking to you, we must respond. It is not good enough to just listen, nod our head and move on. We must listen to what God says and do what he asks.
3. **Tuning in to God's voice can take time** - Just as it took Samuel a few try's before He realised God was speaking to Him, we all learn to hear God's voice slowly. But Jesus tells us that 'the sheep know the shepherd's voice' (John 10:3-4, 27). That means as we spend time with God we will become familiar with all the ways He speaks to us and know what He is saying to us.

### ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Show the kids a radio or remind them of one. We all have stations we like to listen to, but first we have to find them by spinning the dial to hear the station we want. We are tuning in to that radio station. It's the same with God's voice, we have to spend time with Him and give him space to speak so we can 'tune in' to His voice. We don't just pray our prayers and say Amen - but we ask God what he wants to say to us and sit quietly so we can listen. That's how we can 'tune in.' Lead the kids to close their eyes and think about God, have them pray 'God I'm listening, will you talk to me.' Then simply tell them to think about Him, they don't need to list things they know about Him in their head, but just think His name. As they become aware of His presence, ask them to ask Him a question, it could be 'why are you there?' when they sense where He is for them or 'what do you want to say?' Afterwards ask the kids if they felt God's presence or heard God speak to them? Encourage them that they will all experience Him one day as they keep spending time with Him.

### CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Connect groups are a time to build friendships and engage kids in discussion about the preach. Remember to keep it fun and to pray!

1. How many times did the Lord call Samuel?
2. Who realised that God was calling Samuel?
3. How did Samuel respond when he realised it was the Lord calling?
4. How can we tune into God's voice? What are some things we can do daily to listen to God's voice?
5. Have you ever felt God's presence or heard Him speak? What did it feel like, what did He say?

### GAME: LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN

**Don't look at me!!**

1. The aim of the game is not to be looking at each other at the same time.
2. Have all the kids form a large circle, leaving a space between each of them.
3. Have all the kids look down.
4. Have a leader call out 'look up,' when this happens the kids need to look up and then look to their right or left (they choose).
5. If the player beside them is facing them and they lock eyes they both have to scream and they need to sit out.
6. Continue to play until there are only 2 players left. They are the winners.