Preschool–Grade 5

The God Calls Samuel Craft

Samuel's blanket pocket · 1 Samuel 3:1–10 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



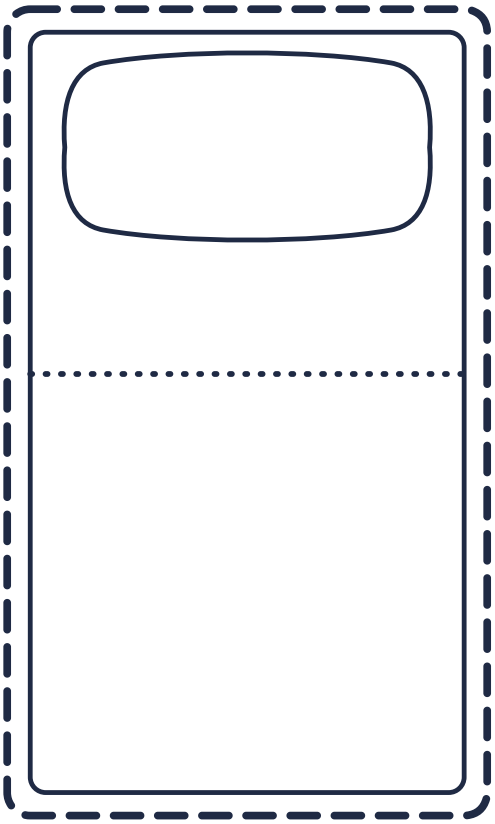
Harder

Medium (left): dark blue paper for the night with a brown sleeping mat and a white pillow on the right. A light blue blanket with a white folded top band is glued over the bottom of the mat as a pocket, and the Samuel card peeks out at the pillow, with a child's drawing of Samuel in its oval window. The lamp of God stands on the left, yellow with an orange and yellow flame on a brown stand. Harder (right): the same scene with Eli's place glued on the left, so the lamp stands between Eli and Samuel, and a child's drawing of Eli in its window.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Sleeping mat

mat: brown · pillow: white

The blanket's top edge goes on the dotted line.



Samuel card

In the window, draw Samuel lying down, head on the pillow. It slides into the blanket.

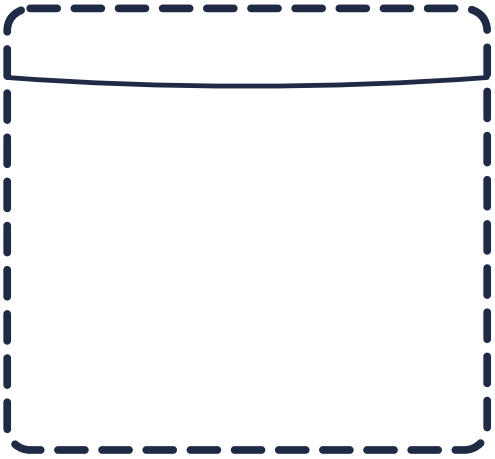


The lamp of God

(1 Samuel 3:3)

lamp: yellow · stand: brown

flame: orange and yellow



And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

1 Samuel 3:10 (KJV)

Verse strip

Glue it on the back of the dark blue paper.

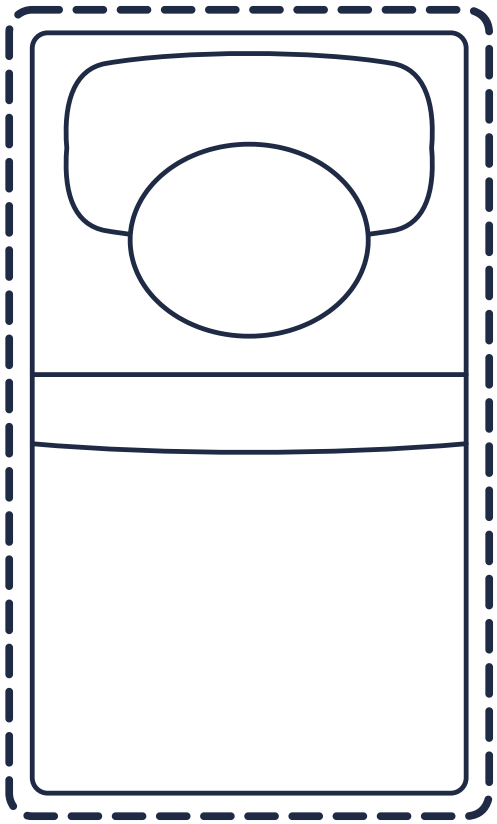
← Blanket: light blue, top band white

Glue only its two sides and its bottom edge on the mat, so it makes a pocket.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



Eli's place

(1 Samuel 3:2)

mat: brown · pillow: white
blanket: light blue, top band white

In the window, draw Eli lying down in his place, an old man with a beard.

Glue it flat on the left side of the dark blue paper, left of the lamp.

How to add Eli's place

1. Make the medium craft from page 2, but glue the lamp in the middle of the dark blue paper, with Samuel's mat on the right.
2. Color Eli's mat brown, the pillow white, and the blanket light blue with a white top band.
3. In the oval window, draw Eli lying down in his place, an old man whose eyes had grown dim (1 Samuel 3:2).
4. Cut out Eli's place on the dashed lines and glue it flat on the left side of the paper, so the lamp of God stands between Eli and Samuel.
5. Tell the story: each time the LORD calls, pull Samuel up and point from Samuel to Eli, "Here am I; for thou calledst me" (3:5). The fourth time, Samuel stays and says, "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (3:10). Say the memory verse from memory.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/samuel-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one sheet of dark blue construction paper per child, brown, light blue, yellow and orange crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child. Kids use any colors for the drawings in the windows.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's pieces and glue the blanket on the mat as a pocket (glue only its sides and bottom edge). Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and glue the blanket pocket on the mat. Kids color the mat, the blanket and the lamp, draw Samuel in the window, and glue the mat and the lamp on the dark blue paper. You glue the verse strip on the back. Call, "Samuel!" and the kids pull Samuel up and say, "Here am I!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw Samuel, cut out the pieces, glue the blanket pocket, glue the mat and lamp on the paper and the verse strip on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level with the lamp in the middle, then add Eli's place from page 3 on the left. Kids draw Eli in its window and retell the whole story, running Samuel to Eli three times. They say 1 Samuel 3:10 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people drawn: the template draws no people. Kids draw Samuel (and Eli in the harder level) themselves in the oval windows. If kids ask how, suggest Samuel as a boy with short dark hair lying with his head on the pillow, and Eli as an old man with a gray beard.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the mat brown and leave the pillow white. Color the blanket light blue and leave the top band white. Color the lamp yellow, the flame orange and yellow, and the stand brown.
2. **Draw:** in the oval window on the Samuel card, draw Samuel lying down with his head on the pillow.
3. **Cut:** cut out the mat, the blanket, the Samuel card, the lamp and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Pocket:** put glue only along the two sides and the bottom edge of the back of the blanket. Press it on the bottom of the mat, with its top edge on the dotted line.
5. **Glue:** glue the mat on the right half of the dark blue paper, the long way. Glue the lamp on the left of the mat.
6. **Slide:** slide the Samuel card into the blanket pocket, window at the top.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the paper and read it together.
8. **Tell the story:** pull Samuel up each time the LORD calls, and count the calls. The fourth time, Samuel answers, "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the lamp. What was still burning when Samuel lay down to sleep? *(The lamp of God, in the temple of the LORD, 1 Samuel 3:3)*
- Point to Samuel. Who did Samuel serve? *(He ministered unto the LORD before Eli, 3:1)*
- Pull Samuel up. What did he say when he ran to Eli? *("Here am I; for thou calledst me," 3:5)* What did Eli say? *("I called not; lie down again," 3:5)*
- Count the calls. How many times did Samuel run to Eli? *(Three times, 3:4–8)* What did Eli tell him to say? *("Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth," 3:9)*
- Pull Samuel up the fourth time. What did Samuel answer? *("Speak; for thy servant heareth," 3:10)*
- Turn the paper over. Read 1 Samuel 3:10 together.

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** ministered = served; ere = before; calledst = you called; perceived = understood; thy servant = me, Your servant; heareth = is listening.
- **What the Bible says:** "the lamp of God" had not gone out yet in the temple of the LORD, and Samuel "was laid down to sleep" (1 Samuel 3:3). The Bible doesn't say what Samuel slept on, what the lamp looked like or what colors anything was, so the mat, the blanket and the colors are ours.
- **Preschool:** do all the cutting and glue the blanket pocket ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **If the card won't slide:** the blanket was glued too far in. Trim a little off the sides of the Samuel card, or gently lift the glue at the top corners of the pocket.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free God calls Samuel Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/samuel.

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