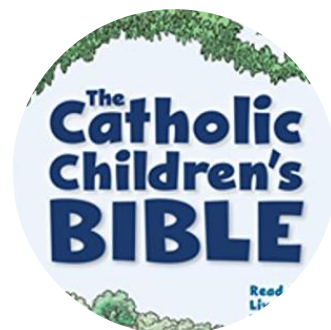




## Home Celebration 2: The God who speaks to us through His Word

### Getting things ready

You may want to start this time of prayer in your prayer corner you set up last time. If you have a bible at home bring it with you. If not, you could download a bible app (The Holy Bible - You Version), view online ([www.catholic.org/bible/](http://www.catholic.org/bible/)) or you could buy a copy (we recommend the Catholic Children's Bible, The New Jerusalem Bible or St Mark's/Matthew's Gospel from the Bible Society - [www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bibles/catholic-bibles/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bibles/catholic-bibles/)).

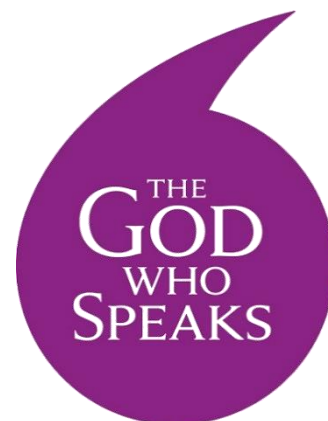


### Introduction

The Bible is most important and most sold book in the world. Written in it are the things we know about God. The Bible tells us how much God loves us. Through the words of Sacred Scripture God directly speaks to us. When we read the Bible, we know God is speaking to us. If the Bible says, for example: *"You are the light of the world"* (Mt 5:14), this applies to us today, God believes we can make the world a bright and beautiful place.

From the very beginning, the people of God have passed on their knowledge of God by storytelling; it was written down in the Bible, it is celebrated in the liturgy and proclaimed by the Church. *YOUCAT for Kids, page 18 & 21*

In this year especially (January 2021-2022), we are celebrating the Year of the Word - The God who Speaks. You can read more about it here ([www.godwhospeaks.uk/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/)). As you carefully listen to this story from the bible ask God to speak to you.



### Scripture - 1 Samuel 3:1-21

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard God call his name. He got up and ran to Eli and he said "Here I am!" But Eli said "I didn't call you". So Samuel went back to bed and, again, God called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. And he said: "Here I am!" Again, Eli said "I didn't call you, go back to bed". A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. And, again, Samuel said: "Here I am!" Eli realised that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak I'm your servant and I'm listening'". That's what Samuel did when God called again. God spoke to Samuel and said he had important work for him to do.



The Word of the Lord  
R/ Thanks be to God

## Discuss the passage

Samuel was the son of Hannah, who wanted Samuel to know and serve God, so she sent him to stay with Eli, who was a holy man. Samuel went on to become a servant of God and a great prophet. Christians understand this passage to show them how important it is for them to listen to God just like Samuel did, because he may have jobs for them to do as well. Discuss what it must have been like for Samuel to hear God calling him. Christians believe that God has spoken throughout history and to all generations. Just as he spoke to Hannah and Samuel, so he speaks to us today. God is present to us wherever and whoever we are. Therefore, we must be open to listening to his voice, as we do not know when or through whom God will speak. Let us always be ready to listen to God speak. You may wish to say together the **Our Father Prayer**.



## Activities

Discuss with a friend or an adult your favourite story or favourite book. Listen to their favourites too. Why is it a favourite? Do you have a favourite Bible story? Does your friend or adult have a favourite Bible story? Why is it a favourite?

If you have a Bible, why not spend some time looking at the different books that make up the Bible. Can you find the two main parts, The Old Testament and the New Testament? See if you can find each book in the bible and tick off the correct section in the bookshelf when you find it using this sheet [www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Catholic-Bible-Bookshelf.pdf](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Catholic-Bible-Bookshelf.pdf)

You could read a chapter or passage from each of the sections and use this sheet to help explore St Mark's Gospel [www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Fish-with-Mark-final.pdf](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Fish-with-Mark-final.pdf)

Using the open book picture, you could draw and write down your favourite Bible story or you could find out some amazing facts about the Bible and write them down! Here is a fact to begin with - The Bible is about 611,000 words long!

Why not visit the website of Mark 10 Mission. [www.themark10mission.co.uk/](http://www.themark10mission.co.uk/) Each week, the team present the Sunday Gospel, a reflection, a time of guided prayer and a live recorded worship song.

## Suggested Music

You may wish to listen to some music asking God to speak to you through song.

- Here I am Lord - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t6mz8yoocY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t6mz8yoocY)
- I am - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPFmjVUEm98](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPFmjVUEm98)



## Celebration

Find somewhere comfy to sit and have a drink with a biscuit. Read your favourite story either on your own or together and enjoy!

For more information and resources visit [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/first-communion/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/first-communion/)  
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