

The Introduction

In 1 Samuel 3:8-20, Samuel heard God calling him, but he did not recognize God's voice at first. After Eli explained what was happening, Samuel listened carefully and responded, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." God then gave Samuel an important message, and Samuel faithfully shared it.



Raymond Learns to Listen

Raymond was a middle school student who loved video games, sports, and spending time with his friends Flint, Bobby, and Jimmy. One Saturday morning, the four friends volunteered at a community food pantry.

As they worked, Raymond noticed an elderly man struggling to carry several heavy boxes to his car. Raymond felt a strong thought in his heart: ***Go help him!***

He ignored it and kept talking with Flint.

A few minutes later, Raymond noticed the man still struggling. Again, he felt that same gentle nudge: ***Go help him!***

Instead, he continued sorting food with Bobby.

Then Raymond saw the man nearly drop a box. Once more, he felt the urge to help.

"Raymond," Jimmy said, "I think that man could use some help."

Suddenly Raymond remembered what he had learned in church about Samuel. Sometimes God speaks through a quiet prompting, encouraging us to do what is right.



"Maybe God has been trying to get my attention," Raymond thought.

Raymond walked over and said, "Sir, can I help you carry those boxes?"

The man smiled. "I'd appreciate that very much."

Flint, Bobby, and Jimmy joined him, and together they carried all the boxes to the car.

When they finished, the man thanked them and said, "Your kindness made my day."

On the way home, Raymond told his friends, "I think God was reminding me to help. I kept ignoring it, but when I listened, I was able to make a difference."

His friends agreed that listening to God's guidance often means choosing to do what is loving, helpful, and right.



MOVING A HEAD

Just as Samuel learned to listen and obey God, we should pay attention when God guides us to show kindness, tell the truth, help others, or make wise choices. When we listen and obey, God can use us to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Key Verse:

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." — 1 Samuel 3:10 (NIV)