

The Call of Samuel

A drama loosely based on 1 Samuel 3, written by Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood.



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Characters:

Narrator; Eli; Samuel; God

This drama lends itself to a "traditional" church, where "God" can hide in a pulpit with a microphone. If it is not possible to hide "God," the narrator could speak God's part as well.

<i>Eli, Samuel & God stand at the front. Narrator stands slightly to one side</i>		
	Narrator:	A long time ago, God's voice was not heard very often.
<i>God moves away from sight and goes to squat in the pulpit hidden from view</i>		
	Narrator:	In fact, these were dark times. Most people had forgotten what God was like and just did what they wanted.
<i>Eli steps forward</i>		
	Narrator:	Eli was the High Priest of Shiloh
<i>Eli gets down on his knees</i>		
	Narrator:	Eli did all sorts of priestly things
<i>Eli puts his hands together as if to pray</i>		
	Narrator:	He prayed
<i>Eli opens his hands out as if reading a book</i>		
	Narrator:	He studied God's Word
<i>Eli mimes striking a match</i>		
	Narrator:	He burned incense
<i>Eli mimes slitting an animals throat, lighting another match and setting fire to the burned offering</i>		
	Narrator:	And did all the other stuff that priests are supposed to do. But still God's voice was not heard in the land
<i>Eli cups his ears to listen for God's voice.</i>		
	Narrator:	In fact, things were so bad, that Eli's own sons were among the worst wrongdoers in the land
<i>Eli tears his hair out</i>		

	Narrator:	There were a few faithful people left in Israel. One of them was Samuel
<i>Samuel steps forward</i>		
	Narrator:	Samuel was only a young boy
<i>Samuel kneels down</i>		
	Narrator:	I don't think he was that young!
<i>Samuel stands up</i>		
	Narrator:	Samuel had been dedicated to God's service when he was just a baby
<i>Eli mimes cradling a baby; Samuel polishes his halo</i>		
	Narrator:	Eli brought Samuel up as if he was his own son
<i>Eli tries to hug Samuel - Samuel ducks away and looks embarrassed</i>		
	Narrator:	And in exchange Samuel helped Eli around the temple...
<i>Samuel mimes sweeping up</i>		
	Narrator:	...because by this time Eli was getting very old... and very tired.
<i>Eli lies down and goes to sleep</i>		
	Narrator:	One night Eli had gone to bed very early and was fast asleep
<i>If the acoustics allow, Eli could give a loud snore</i>		
	Narrator:	was very fast asleep... Samuel finished his chores
<i>Samuel puts his brush against a wall</i>		
	Narrator:	and got ready for bed.
<i>Samuel starts to mime getting undressed, but realises the audience are watching and slams the (invisible) door. He mimes taking his shirt off, then lies down to sleep next to the communion table.</i>		
	Narrator:	It was the middle of the night. Eli was fast asleep in his bedroom while Samuel slept near the altar.
<i>Nothing happens for a few moments</i>		
	God (gently):	Samuel, Samuel!

<i>Samuel wakes up suddenly and rushes to Eli</i>	
Samuel:	Yes, here I am I heard you call, here I am.
<i>Eli wakes up groggily</i>	
Eli:	What's happening? Where's the fire?
<i>Eli realises where he is and who he is talking to</i>	
Eli:	I didn't call you... Go back to bed!
<i>Samuel goes back to bed, scratching his head. Eli lies down again. Nothing happens for a few moments</i>	
God (a little less gently):	Samuel, Samuel!
<i>Samuel wakes up suddenly and rushes to Eli</i>	
Samuel:	Yes, here I am I heard you call, here I am.
<i>Eli wakes up groggily</i>	
Eli:	I really didn't call you. You must be dreaming. Go back to bed.
<i>Samuel goes back to bed, scratching his head. Eli lies down again. Nothing happens for a few moments</i>	
God (a little less gently):	Samuel, Samuel!
<i>Samuel wakes up suddenly and rushes to Eli</i>	
Samuel:	Yes, here I am I heard you call, here I am.
<i>Eli wakes up</i>	
Eli:	I know what must be happening - but it's so long since I heard Him, I didn't recognise His voice. It must be God calling you. Next time He calls you, just say, "Yes, Lord, I'm your servant. I'm ready to listen" Now go back to bed and wait.
<i>Samuel goes back to bed, scratching his head. Eli lies down again. Nothing happens for a few moments</i>	

God:	Samuel, Samuel!
Samuel	Yes, Lord, I'm your servant. I'm ready to listen
<i>God comes down from the pulpit, embraces Samuel and they walk off (down the aisle if in a traditional church) arm in arm</i>	
Narrator:	And from that time onwards, the people of Israel knew exactly what God was saying because He spoke to them through Samuel who first heard God when he was a little child.

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Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RT
Tel: 01235 517700 Email: safeguarding@baptist.org.uk Website: www.baptist.org.uk
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