

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 10

Living Faith

God calling Samuel in the middle of the night is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. When Eli finally figures out that it's the Lord speaking to Samuel, he tells Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). What great advice! The Lord wants us to be ready and eager to hear him anytime—day or night.

Construct an old-school "telephone" by using plastic or paper cups, string and tape. Kite string or yarn works well. Once you gather the needed materials, poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup with a pencil. Thread the string through each hole, tie a large knot and then tape the knot on the bottom of the inside of the cups. When you pull the string tight, you'll be able to hear each other when one person speaks softly into the cup and another person listens with the cup to his ear. See if you can say special messages to each other around the corner of a wall or down the stairs. Put the string under furniture or through the banister and see if it works. How long can you make the string and still communicate with each other?

When you're done experimenting, ask:

- What was the hardest part of communicating using the old-fashioned telephone?
- God doesn't speak to us through cups (although he could). What ways does God speak to us today? (Through the Bible; through godly advice from parents or pastors; through our prayers; through circumstances.)
- Because of the way that God communicates with us today, does it make reading the Bible and going to church more important? How can you make these two activities more of a priority in your life?
- What do you think you'd do if you heard a voice in the night calling your name?
- What do you think God wants you to do for him?

Extra Mile

In this part of *The Story*, the Philistines defeat Israel in battle, kill 30,000 soldiers (including Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas) and capture the Ark of God (1 Samuel 4:10-11). Although King David brought the Ark back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6), it was eventually lost. Movies, including *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, have been made regarding the quest to find God's lost ark. Go to YouTube.com and search for "Ark of the Covenant." Then watch the History Channel special that goes into detail about the Ethiopian Orthodox church having the Ark of Covenant. The video is in four parts and takes about 35 minutes to watch. Discuss as a family what you learn. Does this video give you more faith that what the Bible says is real?