



# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

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## Small Stewards – Big Blessings

Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

*(You are invited to share this lesson with children in Sunday school openings, classroom devotions, children's worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lesson can also be used by the family. "Notes to Family" provides home applications and explorations. May the "small" Biblical stewardship mentors provide "big blessings" for children growing and sharing as God's stewards.)*

### **Text: I Samuel 3:1-10 (The Child Samuel)**

Children of God are caretakers (stewards) of everything God has given them. They are stewards of the body that God created. Each of us is blessed with five senses—sight, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. The senses help us enjoy and explore the world that God created.

The boy Samuel is a wonderful example of a steward of the sense of hearing. Samuel used his ears to listen to God. Samuel thought he was hearing the voice of his master, Priest Eli. Eli suggested that God might be calling His servant Samuel. When God called, Samuel responded, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (vs. 10). Samuel used his ears to listen to God many times in His life. God used Samuel to share His Word with the kings and people of Israel.

We are blessed with ears and the sense of hearing. God gives us our ears to listen to the wonderful sounds in His creation, to listen to parent and teachers and others who direct us, and especially to listen to God through His Word. Each Sunday we hear God's Word in worship. As another year of Sunday school begins we hear Bible lessons which tells us about God's love for us and His plan to save us through Jesus. We are blessed to listen in Sunday school and other church classrooms.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund helps build churches and schools where people can use their ears to hear about Jesus. Your church's Young Investor Club (Y.I.) coordinators invite you to hear that your investments make a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus. As a "club" member you'll also hear birthday greetings, opportunities to receive benefits for good grades and community service, and other ways that children make a difference in Lutheran Church Extension Fund and your congregation. Ask your pastor or Y.I. Club coordinator for more information or visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org).

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for my ears and the sense of hearing. Open my ears to hear Your word. As I hear the voice of my parents, teachers, pastors, and others who care for me, help me to listen respectfully in Your name. Amen

### **Small Stewards Bring Big Blessings Home—Notes to Family**

Review the story of the boy Samuel (I Samuel, chapters 2 and 3). Why was the boy Samuel growing up in the temple? What do you think it was like for the boy Samuel to hear the voice of God? How does God talk to us? How can we listen more faithfully in church and Sunday school? How can we listen more faithfully to our parents and teachers? What's your favorite sound?

Parents, it's important that our children hear the voice of God. As the family begins a new fall routine make worship together a family priority and test your children's hearing, "What did you hear in church



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today?" Make sure your children hear the Bible stories of Samuel and others who listened to God's call as your children attend Sunday school and other church classes.