

## January 17, 2021 - lesson for 4th-6th grade

There are two readings this week for a little compare and contrast. Read each reading slowly then look at the questions. Re-read the lesson and think about the questions again. Do this for both readings. Then think about how the two readings are the same and different.

### **John 1:43-51**

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Consider what it means to follow Jesus. *Picture yourself IN the reading.*

- ◆ Which disciple are you? How do you envision yourself?
- ◆ Why did you decide to hang out with Jesus?
- ◆ What's Jesus like; how would you describe him?
- ◆ How did you feel when Jesus asked you to go with him? (*trusting? skeptical? nervous? happy?*)
- ◆ (*For Philip:*) Whom did you invite to see Jesus? Why did you do that?
- ◆ (*For Nathanael:*) What did you think when Jesus told you he saw you under the fig tree and you hadn't even met him yet?

Imagine that we're WITH Philip when Jesus says, "Come with me" or that we're WITH Nathanael when Philip comes to say he's found Jesus.

- ◆ What questions might we have, either for Jesus or for one of the disciples?
- ◆ Would you go with Jesus? Why or why not?
- ◆ Would you go find a family member or friend and invite him or her to follow Jesus, too? Why or why not?

## 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

- ◆ Of course, God didn't use a telephone to call Samuel. What do you think God's call might have sounded like? *(There are no right or wrong answers to this question.)*
- ◆ According to Jewish tradition, Samuel was 12 years old at the time of this story. How do you think he feels when he realizes it's God calling him?
- ◆ Why do you think Samuel didn't know, at first, that it was God calling?
- ◆ Have we ever heard God calling us? What was it like? How did we feel?
- ◆ If God wants to call us, what might keep us from hearing God's call?

#### BONUS:

The Gospel of John is one of the 4 Gospels found at the beginning of the New Testament. Samuel is part of the Old Testament.

How are the reads different?

How are they the same?