



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children
Lesson 44

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Listening to God Speak

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Listening to God Speak

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Listening to God Speak

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Listening to God Speak

Level E—Bible Bits: Wholehearted Obedience and
Service to God / Topic Treasures—Being Just Right

Listening to God Speak

The Lord called out to Samuel one night, and Samuel heard Him.

At first Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, but it wasn't. Samuel then sat quietly and listened to the Lord. He was helping Samuel learn what he needed to know, so that he could do a good job.

Samuel grew strong and wise. He prayed and listened to God a lot. Even when others were doing the wrong things Samuel made good choices. Listening to God's Words helped him to know what was right.

When Samuel was an adult he was a prophet and judge. He told the people what God said, and helped them to follow in His ways.



Listening to God Speak

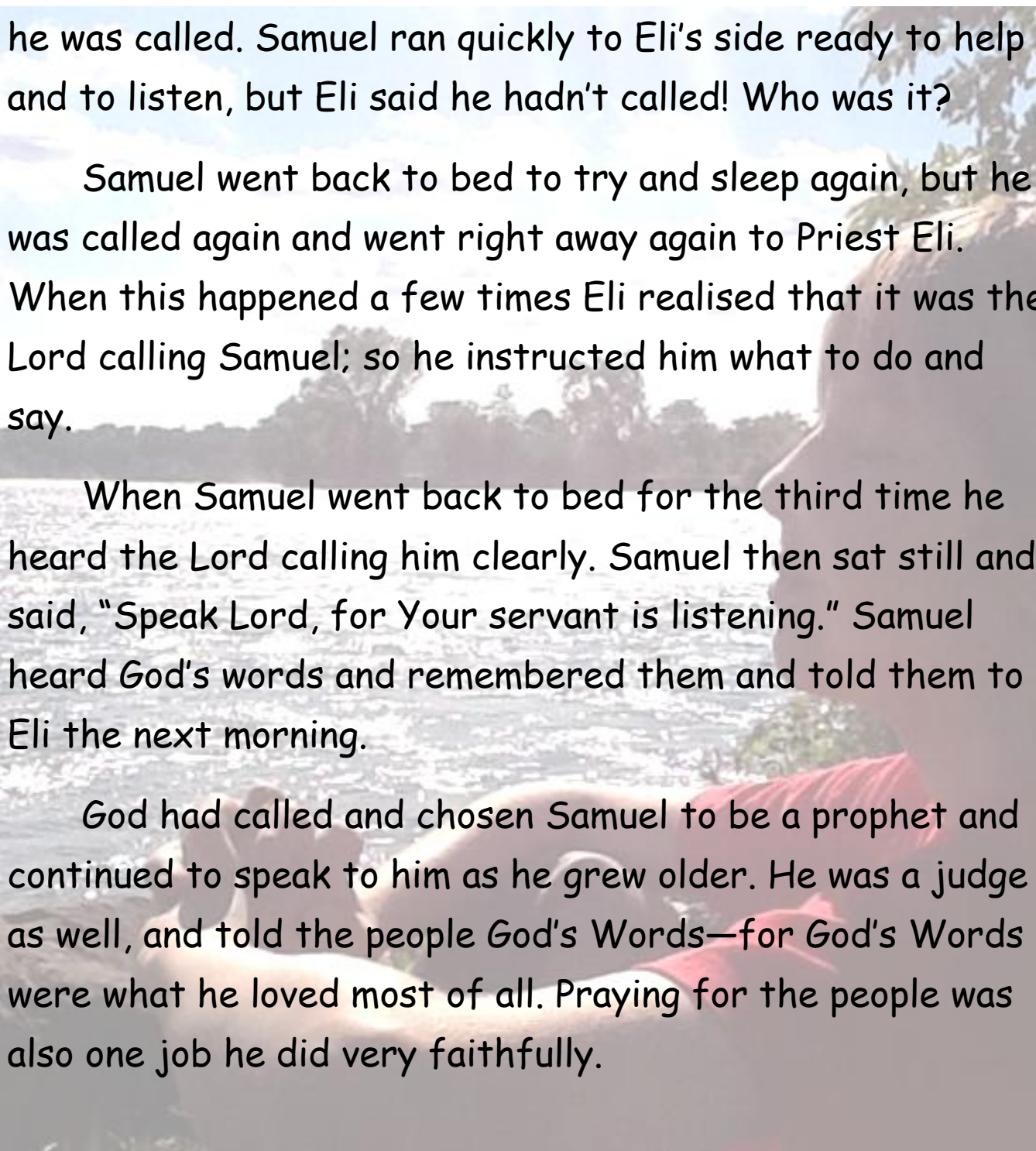
Samuel stayed with Priest Eli and helped him do the special jobs they did to serve the Lord. Samuel learned about God and learned to pray.

One night he learned to also listen to God's Words that would be spoken to him personally. He was sleeping soundly in his bed that was near the Ark of the Covenant—a place very few were allowed to be.

Eli was getting old and couldn't see very well, so it was a great help to have Samuel around. One of Samuel's jobs then was to make sure the special lamp that was near the Ark of the Covenant was always lit, and to add more oil to it when it was needed. He kept checking on it during the day and if he woke at night too.

One night as young Samuel slept something woke him up—a voice calling his name. He was accustomed to helping Eli and was quick to obey when



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking out over a large body of water, likely a lake or river. The background shows a line of trees under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

he was called. Samuel ran quickly to Eli's side ready to help and to listen, but Eli said he hadn't called! Who was it?

Samuel went back to bed to try and sleep again, but he was called again and went right away again to Priest Eli. When this happened a few times Eli realised that it was the Lord calling Samuel; so he instructed him what to do and say.

When Samuel went back to bed for the third time he heard the Lord calling him clearly. Samuel then sat still and said, "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening." Samuel heard God's words and remembered them and told them to Eli the next morning.

God had called and chosen Samuel to be a prophet and continued to speak to him as he grew older. He was a judge as well, and told the people God's Words—for God's Words were what he loved most of all. Praying for the people was also one job he did very faithfully.

Activity

*Act out the story, and then at the end stop to hear if Jesus wants to say something to, or for, the child acting it out. He loves to speak to each one of us!

Listening to God Speak



Samuel was faithful day by day to do what he needed to do. It was a great help for Eli, who was also the judge of the people of Israel, to have Samuel's help. Eli was getting older and couldn't see very well and needed help with things like making sure the special oil lamp was always shining and had enough oil.

Samuel knew about God and learned His ways as Priest Eli taught him, but for the first years as he grew and gained strength and wisdom he didn't know or talk to Me personally as a friend. He didn't learn to hear God's voice and words right from the start, but when the time was right he was given the special gift of being able to hear God's words clearly.

This is what he would need in order to do the job he was called to do—to be the next judge after Priest Eli, and to be a prophet passing on God's Words and instructions.

As Samuel grew and learned things, one of his jobs was to sleep at night in a very special place—he was near the Ark of the Covenant, that special box that God had instructed Moses and the travelling team of Israelites to make, and it was a sign of God's presence.

He was very quick to help, as well as to obey when Eli had a need or called for him—even if it was night time. That helped to prepare him for the most important responsibility of all—obeying Me and My words. For it was when people stopped doing that, that there were troubles. This is what Samuel needed to be strong in if he was to do his job well.

It can seem like you are only listening to and obeying your parents on Earth, but if what they are saying to do is the right and Godly thing, then obeying them helps you get good practice at following the instructions and words from Me, your Heavenly Father.

Samuel had to give up being with the rest of his family, and sometimes it was lonesome. Often the most important and special jobs that are needed feel rather lonely at times, as they are jobs that are difficult in some ways, and not everyone on Earth is eager to rush and do them. And some jobs can only be done right if those doing it have plenty of time alone—like Samuel's job of one day being a prophet and judge; it required lots of quiet time in prayer and hearing God speak.

One night Samuel was sleeping as usual but something unusual happened—it was the first of many times in his life that he heard God talking to him. He heard a voice clearly calling him. Sure that it was Eli calling for help, Samuel got up and ran quickly to him. Eli was surprised to see Samuel showing up there and told him to go back to sleep and that he hadn't called.

Samuel knew that he'd heard someone calling his name, but if it wasn't Eli then who was it? There wasn't someone else around right there. Obediently Samuel tried to go back to sleep, but he was again clearly summoned.

"That was definitely someone calling me. I heard it with my own ears!" Samuel was thinking, and ran to see what Eli needed. Again Eli told him that it wasn't him calling. This then happened a third time. Eli realised that something special was happening, and that God had chosen to introduce Himself personally to Samuel through talking to him in an audible way, as He had something to tell him.

"Next time you hear the voice, say, 'Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" Eli told Samuel.

And that's just what happened. So when Eli didn't see Samuel showing up by his side again that night he knew God was talking to him, and he was eager to find out the next day what God had said.

Things weren't perfect and there had been some very troublesome people that weren't respectful and obedient to God's Words and ways and it was making it very hard for people in that place to know clearly what was the right thing to do. Sadly, it was Eli's grown sons who were making God and Eli and many others very sad.

People make mistakes and have to learn the right way to do things, but because these naughty guys weren't given enough training and discipline and told to stop doing the things that were wrong, that is what was very displeasing to God.

If people do the wrong thing and then are allowed to keep doing it, and those who know that it is making God unhappy and making others unhappy don't do anything to stop them, then it just makes things get worse. Those people just keep going down the wrong way and soon others start to follow them instead of following in God's way. They then begin to think that it must not matter, until some big and difficult consequences have to happen to get everyone back doing things the good, loving, and Godly way again.

Fathers and mothers need to teach their children the right and loving and Godly way to be, according to what God has said. This is what will make things go well, and help people, families, towns and countries to be happy and pleasant.



If the parents are the ones responsible for leading the people in God's way—like Eli was—and if they don't teach their children to do things according to God's word, and don't give consequences for choosing the wrong or hurtful ways, then others think it must not actually be important to obey God. And that's a big mistake that will have bad consequences on many people.

What happens when drivers don't stop at a red light or they start driving on the wrong side of the road where the cars are coming the opposite direction? Trouble, danger, harm, accident, and sorrow too!

Samuel didn't have his parents there with him, and he needed to know clearly what was the right thing to do in order to be prepared for his job of telling everyone God's Words, rules, advice and instruction. God didn't want him to be misled by those other bad examples.

So on that night Samuel began to hear the voice and Word of God speaking and talking with him. It helped to encourage him and bring him closer to God and help him to know the right way to be.

The message that was told to Samuel made it clear to him what was right and wrong about the situation with those disobedient and foolish men, so that he could choose to do things God's way. Samuel was very still and quiet, and respectfully listened to every single word that was told him—and he remembered it well.

When Priest Eli asked him the next day what God had said, Samuel told it all to him. It wasn't a fun message, and Samuel didn't even want to tell Eli, but Eli loved God and wanted to hear whatever it was—even if it was a difficult, correction type of message from the Lord.

God wanted Samuel to know that there would be consequences and negative outcomes for those men, Eli's sons, who were setting such a bad example. Eli believed God's words and humbly accepted the lesson God wanted to tell him and all the people: that it's important to teach children

God's way and to stop them from setting a bad example that leads others astray.

Even if parents are very busy helping others—like Eli was for 40 years—they need to make sure to take time with their children, talking with them, teaching them God's Word, helping them to memorize it and to live it; and to give guidelines, training and correction for doing things that are wrong. If they don't, then it just makes things sad for everyone.

When Abraham followed and obeyed God he was blessed with a son, Isaac, who followed and obeyed God—and so did his son Jacob. After many years there were many descendents, like God had promised.

The people living in the country when Samuel was there came from those original "fathers of faith" and their descendents. Everyone knew about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and those men were good examples of obedience to God's word and doing the things God asked them to do.

However, because Eli's sons didn't go God's way—even though their father Eli was showing the example to them and others, and because Priest Eli didn't discipline them for doing things that weren't good or when they showed great disrespect for God, there wasn't that same blessing for them.

They didn't have many descendents, and Eli's sons were not to be the next judges. This is what was explained to Samuel that night, when he first heard God speaking to him.



From then on Samuel was a prophet, a called and chosen one who loved hearing from God and wanted to always follow what God had said. People knew that he was a prophet of God, and Samuel loved hearing and reading and obeying God's Words so very much. It was the most important thing to him, and he wanted others to do it too.

Let's Talk About It

*Besides teaching children God's Word, what are some other things you think are important for parents to teach their children, and train them in?

*What do you think life would be like in the world around you, and even in your own home, if there were never any consequences for bad behaviour and people could just do what they wanted, whenever they wanted to?

Activity

*Tell a scenario, and have the children act out the natural consequences—either good or bad—that would happen. (For example: We don't pull the weeds in our garden/ We do pull the weeds; Drivers obey the road rules and traffic signals and signs/ There are no longer any traffic lights or signs; We wash our dishes/ We leave the dishes dirty for a long time; We speak unkindly to our friends/ We treat our friends with kindness, etc.)

Listening to God Speak



Connect and Communicate

*Quote together, or read, a few short poems of prayer and praise.

Study Fun

Find: Some of the jobs and things that Samuel did.

Learn: What a "circuit" rider/preacher is.

Demonstrate: Some of the verbs in these passages, with simple actions. (Words like: sleep, run, call, pray.)

1 Samuel

2:26 And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men.

3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

3:2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3:3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

3:4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

3:6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

3:8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.



3:10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

3:19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.

3:21 And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

7:3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods ... from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

7:4 Then the children of Israel did ... and served the Lord only.

7:5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

7:6 And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

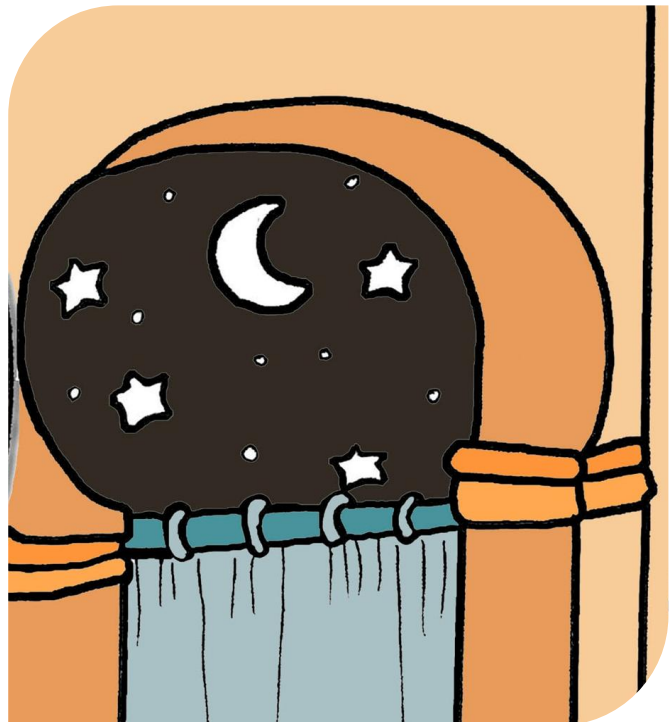
7:13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

7:15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

7:16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

7:17 And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.



Activity

*Learn about the symbol for the modern-day occupation of being a judge--the old fashioned weighing scale. Try to make one in a simple way (for example a clothes hanger on a laundry line with a bag attached to each end of it). Fill the bags with different items to find out what makes it of equal weight and appear level. Find verses about God being "just" and liking balance and honesty.

- A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work. (Proverbs 16:11)

-A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight. (Proverbs 11:1)

-He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. (Psalm 33:5)

Dishonest people wouldn't use the correct weight to measure and balance the amounts sold at a market, which meant they were cheating and taking more money for selling less goods than was the agreed upon price. But those who used a "just weight" were honest and dependable.

So is God. We can depend on Him and His Word to be true and right, and give us what He has promised. Yet, He does even more. Even though our sins would make it "just" for Him to also give us the fair amount of "judgement" or punishment,

He also is a merciful God and doesn't mete out to us what we deserve—thanks to giving us the gift of love through His Son Jesus, who took the punishment for us.



Fountain of Faith

Psalms 7:10

My defence is of
God, which saveth
the upright in
heart.



Psalms 11:7

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his
countenance doth behold the upright.



Wholehearted Obedience and Service to God

Prayer

Psalms 28:6 Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

*Think of certain specific people that you all want to pray for (relatives, friends, presidents and leaders, children, etc.), and decide who will pray for whom. Then have a united whispering prayer, where each person whispers a prayer for the person they've been assigned to pray for, all at the same time.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Galatians 4:18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

2 Chronicles 31:21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

Deuteronomy 11:13 Hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Psalms 9:1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

1 Samuel 12:24 Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Joel 2:12a Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 10:12 What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Activity

*Choose one of the verses to write out, or print and glue it, on a heart shaped piece of paper and commit to memory. Post it somewhere—like on the fridge or the back of a door. Cut strips of paper, and have people write on them—or type and print—ideas of how, in practical ways, this verse can be lived and followed. Place those idea strips around the posted heart, as if they are the rays of light coming from a sun.

(For example if Galatians 4:18 is chosen, people might contribute, ideas like, "Use my spare time to learn Spanish", and "Help the younger children play nicely when mum is busy cooking", and "Spend less time watching TV and instead create handmade, useful gifts for others", and "Cut out the distractions when it's time to study, so more is learned with less time wasted", and "Practice a musical instrument each day", etc.)



Topic Treasures – Being Just Right

Study Fun

Find: The three longest words in these verses—how many letters long are they?

Learn: The meanings of the words, “integrity”, “just”, “deceitful”, and “upright”.

Demonstrate: These verbs when you come across them while reading—walk, fall, teach, sow, shout.

Proverbs 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.

Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom.

Proverbs 10:11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.

Proverbs 11:18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.



Proverbs 13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Psalm 15:1-2 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.



Daily Diary

*Through the words we say, others can determine what kind of a character we are, or they can assume something about us as a result of listening to us. What kind of a person do you want others to think you are?

Think of the ways you respond and the words you speak, and choose to use what will show to others the good qualities that are in your character. Make a list of what good kind of character traits you want to be known for, and jot down some ideas of the kinds of words you need to say that will portray just that.

For example:

Generous (Say "yes" more often than "no" when people ask for favours, or to borrow something.)

Patient (Count to 10 and stay calm, saying nothing, when I feel someone has upset me, using the time to think of what they might be feeling as well.)

Dependable (Remember that promises and action go together; not to ever promise to do something, unless I'm committed to following through and doing it, to the best of my ability.)

Honest (Say what I believe to be true and right, not what I think others want me to say, if it's wrong.)