# Children’s talk notes

**1 Samuel 3:1-21 - The boy who listened.**

Start by explaining that the Bible teaches us that God cares about us and wants us to be safe.

One of the ways we can do that is by using the voice he has given us to speak up for ourselves and others.

We’re going to look at a story from the Bible where someone did that.

**Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21 from the Bible or using version below.**

“Once upon a time there was a boy who lived in the place where people worshipped God. He helped the person in charge, called Eli, and only saw his family once a year. One night, the boy was woken up by a noise, it was someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli and went to see if he needed help. Eli said it wasn’t him, so the boy went back to bed. The same thing happened again, and then again. Each time Eli said it wasn’t him. The boy was puzzled - who could be calling him in the middle of the night? Eli said he thought it might be God. The boy went back to bed and again heard someone calling him. It *was* God, and He had something important to tell the boy about some very sad thigs that were going to happen to Eli’s family. In the morning, the boy felt scared to tell Eli what he had seen and heard and wanted to keep it a secret, but Eli said it was very important that he told him the truth. The boy spoke up and told Eli everything, and Eli listened. Sadly, it did all come true. Because the boy spoke up, when people saw that what he said came true, people knew he had heard from God. When he grew up he became someone very important in his country who God used to do some amazing things.”

## Questions.

Ask the children:

**What do you think the boy might have been feeling living away from his family and only getting to see them once a year?**

Why do you think the boy was scared to tell Eli, the man in charge, what he had seen and heard?

*Explain that sometimes it can be a scary thing to speak up if things aren’t right. Doing the right thing isn’t always easy. Even for grown ups. Sometimes we need to brave. Can you give an example from your own experience here.*

**Can you think of any secrets it is good to keep? – e.g. surprise parties.**

**What sort of secrets is it not good to keep?**

*Explain that people grown ups and friends shouldn’t ask you to keep secrets about bad or hurtful things. If ever you are unsure or worried you should speak to someone. Tell the children who in your church are safe people they can talk to e.g. Children’s group leaders or your Safeguarding Lead*.

**Do you think the boy was brave for speaking up? Why do they think that? What might they have done?**

Close by reminding the children that the Bible is full of examples of people, like Samuel, who spoke up. Speaking up when things aren’t right is an important way we can stay safe. If you speak up in this church, people will listen and believe you.

Finish by saying a prayer and/or singing the ‘Roarrys Roar’ song together. **thirtyoneeight.org/downloads**