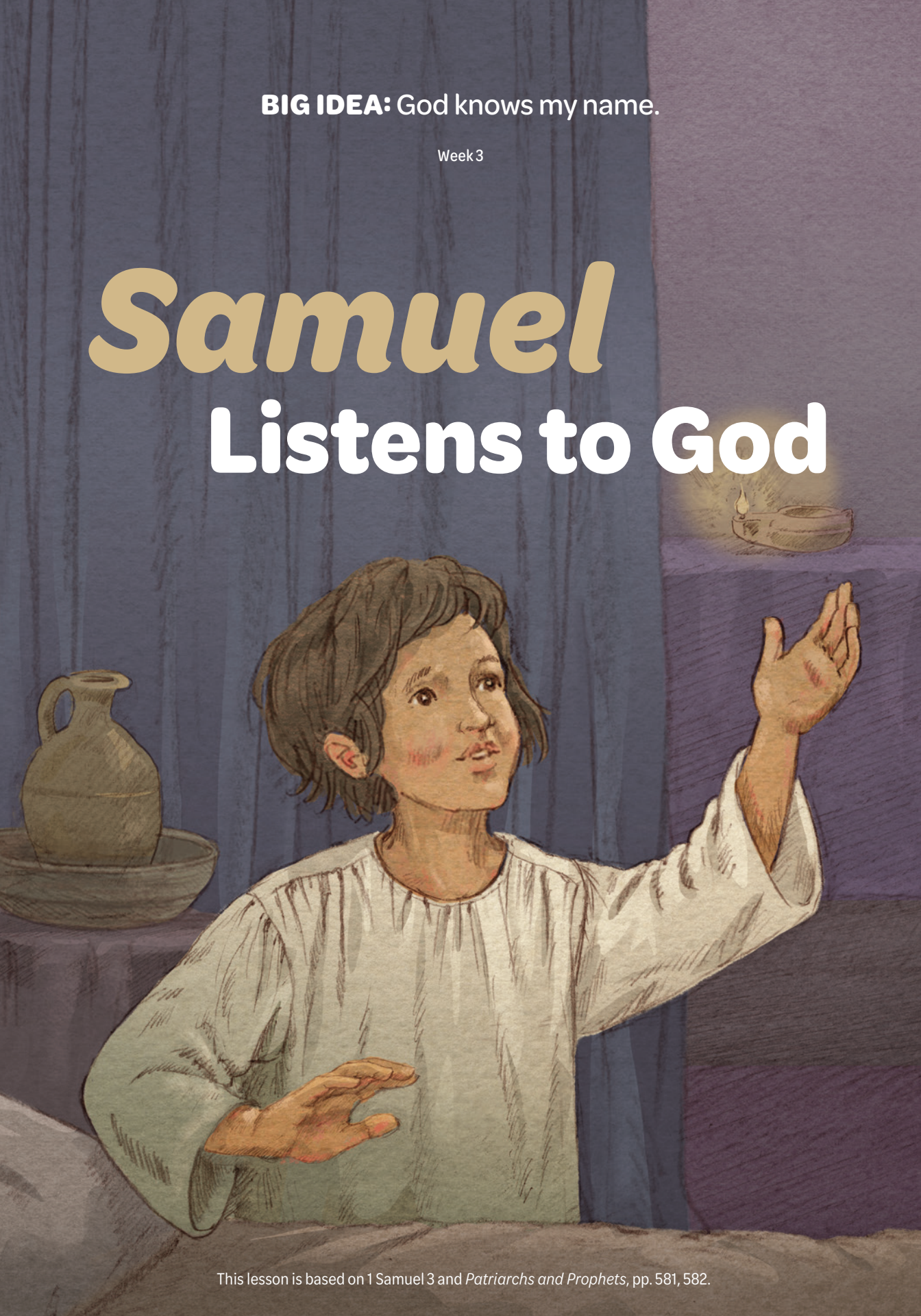
BIG IDEA: God knows my name.

Week 3

Samuel Listens to God

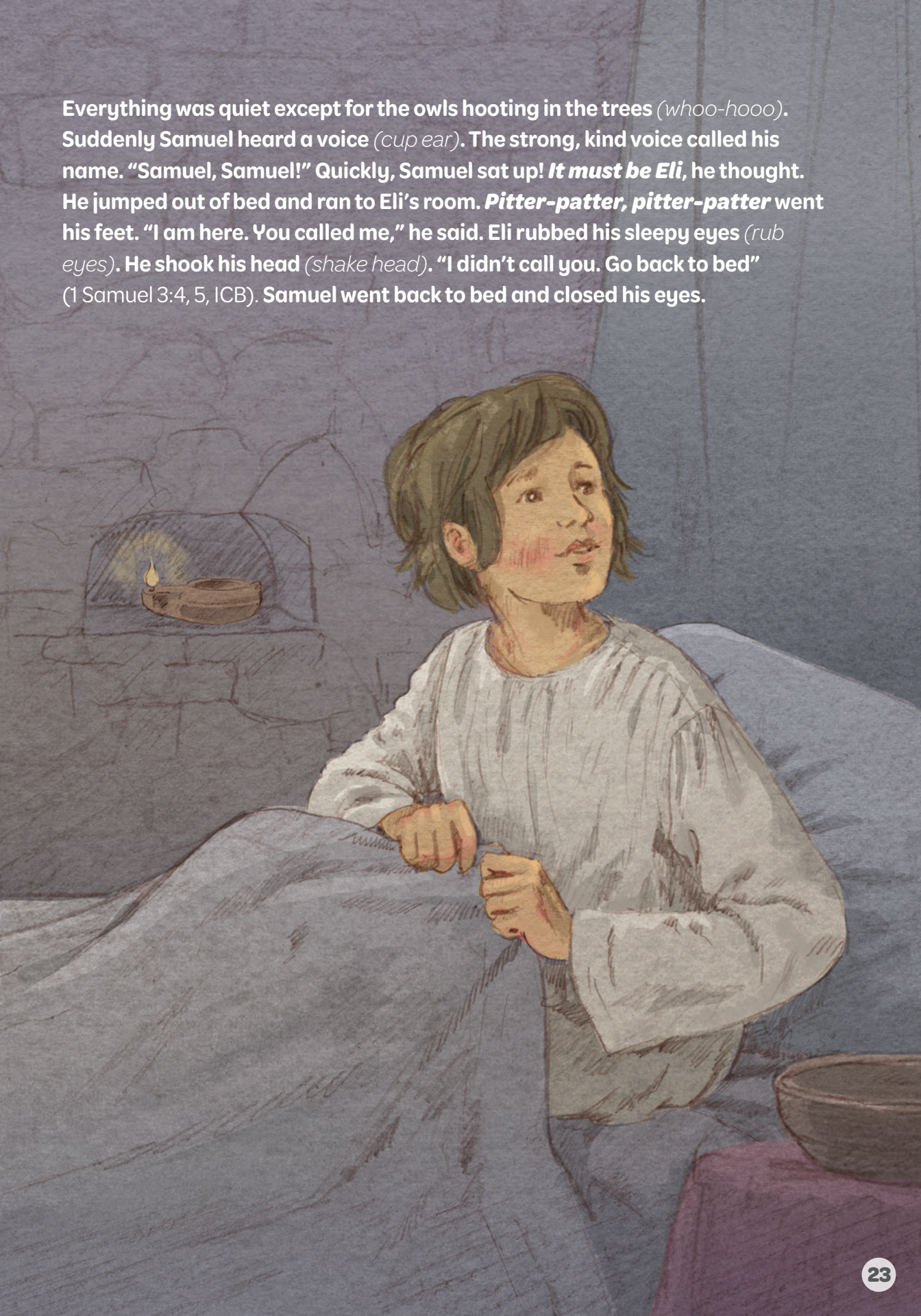


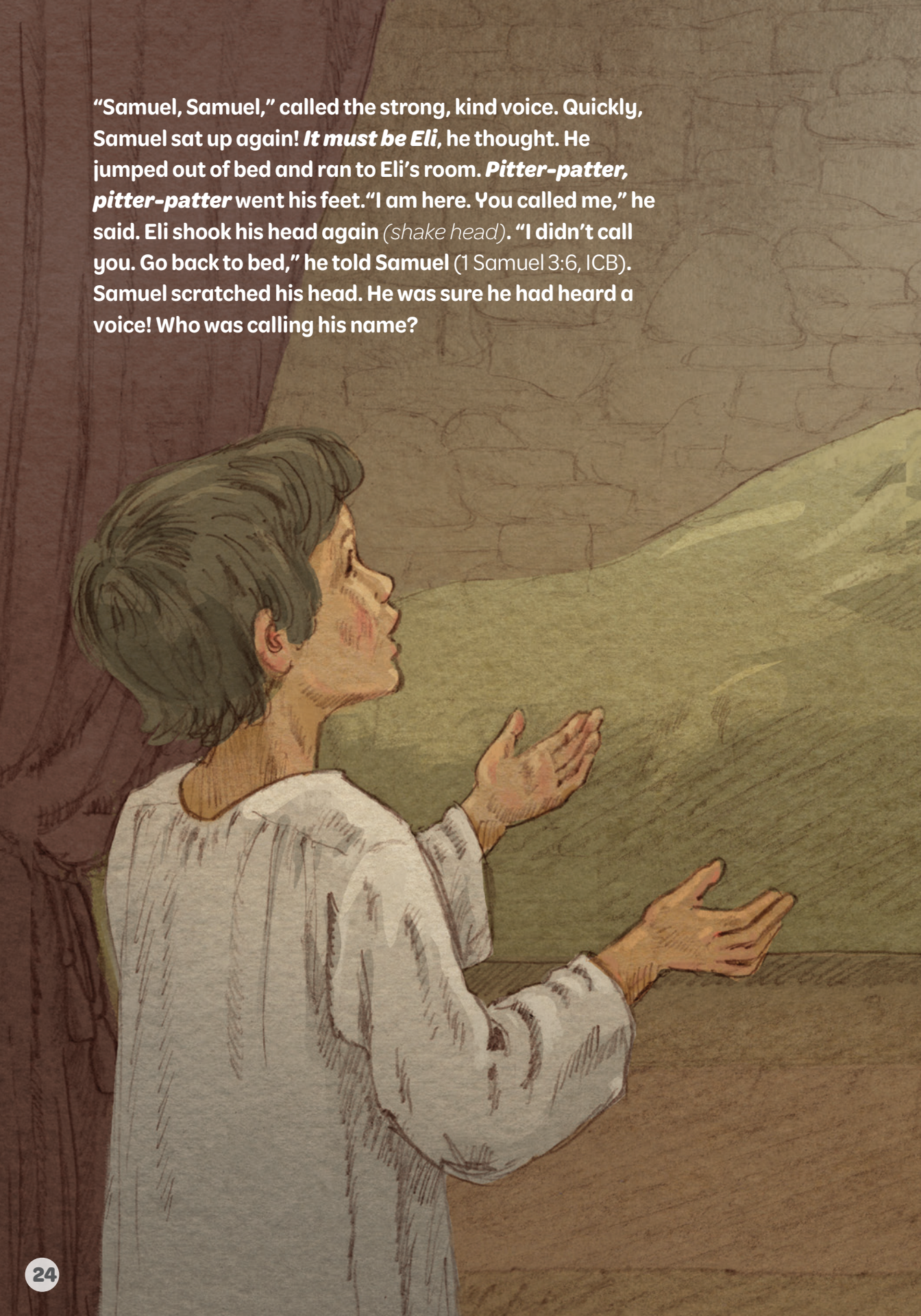
This lesson is based on 1 Samuel 3 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 581, 582.



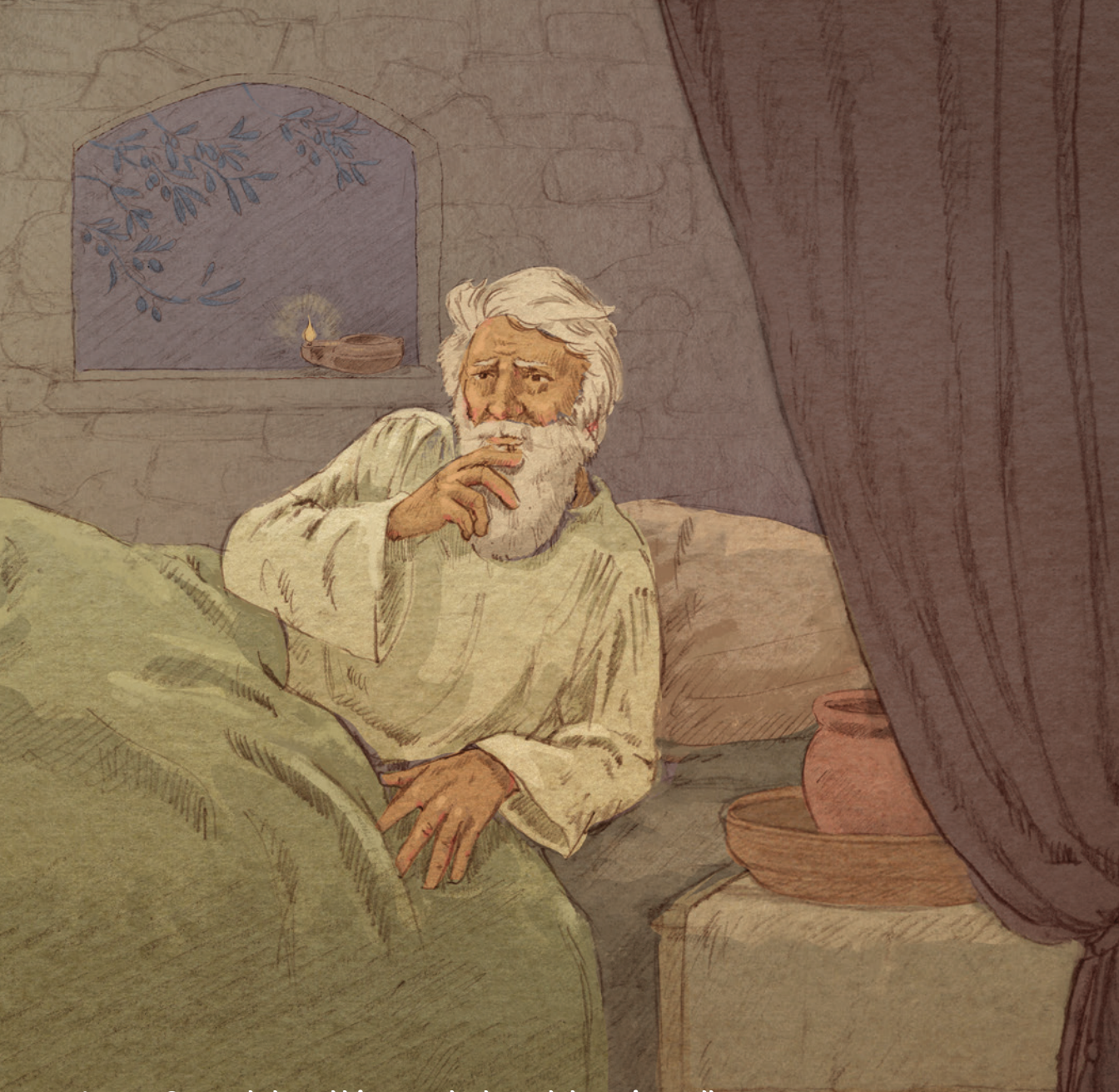
The sun had gone down. Samuel yawned *(yawn)*. **It had been a busy day helping Priest Eli in God's house. It was now time to sleep. Samuel got ready for bed. He knelt and prayed to God** *(praying hands)*. **He loved talking to Him! He thanked God for helping him to be a good helper all day. Samuel snuggled under his blankets and closed his eyes** *(pretend to sleep)*. **Good night, Samuel.**

Everything was quiet except for the owls hooting in the trees *(whoo-hooo)*. **Suddenly Samuel heard a voice** *(cup ear)*. **The strong, kind voice called his name. "Samuel, Samuel!" Quickly, Samuel sat up! *It must be Eli*, he thought. He jumped out of bed and ran to Eli's room. *Pitter-patter, pitter-patter* went his feet. "I am here. You called me," he said. Eli rubbed his sleepy eyes** *(rub eyes)*. **He shook his head** *(shake head)*. **"I didn't call you. Go back to bed"** (1 Samuel 3:4, 5, ICB). **Samuel went back to bed and closed his eyes.**





"Samuel, Samuel," called the strong, kind voice. Quickly, Samuel sat up again! *It must be Eli*, he thought. He jumped out of bed and ran to Eli's room. *Pitter-patter, pitter-patter* went his feet. "I am here. You called me," he said. Eli shook his head again *(shake head)*. **"I didn't call you. Go back to bed," he told Samuel** (1 Samuel 3:6, ICB). **Samuel scratched his head. He was sure he had heard a voice! Who was calling his name?**



Just as Samuel closed his eyes, he heard the voice call his name—*again***. "Samuel, Samuel!" Again he ran to Eli's room. All of a sudden Eli knew who was calling Samuel's name. It was God!** *(Point upward.)* **He looked into Samuel's eyes and said, "Go to bed. If He calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening' "** (1 Samuel 3:9, ICB)**. When Samuel heard God's voice calling his name, he knew what to say.**

God talked to Samuel. He told Samuel things that would happen to God's people. Samuel listened *very* carefully.

God loves to say your name too. He wants to be your close friend. Sometimes we hear His voice in our minds as He helps us make good choices. Sometimes we hear His voice through His words in the Bible or through other people's wise words. Will you have a listening ear, as Samuel did?

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for speaking to Samuel, and thank You that You want to talk to me too!**



play throughout the Day

Create

Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Talk to them about the meaning of their name and why you chose it for them. Use leaves and flowers to stick over the letters. Share how Jesus knows your child's name and everything about them. He loves to listen and talk to us. He loves us so much!

Play

Hide in the house and call your child's name, asking them to come. When they find you, praise them for their listening ears and obedient heart.

Sing

Sing or listen to a comforting song about God knowing you, before your child goes to sleep every night this week.

Pray

Take turns praying together every morning and night. Thank God that He made you and knows everything about you.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Speak, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:10).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Have you ever overheard your child, in the midst of their play, worshipping God with their own little song? What a delight it is to hear children respond to Jesus in their own special way. This stage of their faith journey is all about them and their growing friendship with Jesus, expressed in worship. This is their own way of being attentive to God and responding to their very real heavenly Father. How lovely to imagine God singing back to us! It says in His Word that "He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17).

God wants us to be attentive and respond to His voice with the same childlike wonder that our children show every day. He wants us to recognize His voice—whether it be through His Word, prayer, or another godly person. How often do we, as adults, miss the voice of God? "The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe we would open God's Word, and with what earnestness we would search its precepts. The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One" (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Apr. 4, 1906).

How will you be attentive to God's voice through His Word this week? In a world filled with noise, how will you still the chaos to pause and listen to Him? He knows your name, and He loves to say it. Like Samuel's response, may our response be "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9).

