

Day 3

## **Called to Serve**

### **Bible Text**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (The Call of Samuel)

### **Calling for Service**

UJS

**Objective:** Carry out a service project to benefit others and the earth.

During a hike around camp, ask the campers to take special notice of areas that are calling for service. Gather to share your findings. Some ideas include repairing a trail, improving a fire ring, weeding a flower garden, doing a garbage sweep, sweeping a sidewalk, or making friendly signs that say, "Turn the lights off please." Encourage the campers to carry out one of the projects.

Afterwards, discuss the benefits of their service. How did it help others? How did it affect us? Did we receive any thanks or benefit for our service? What else in creation is silently calling for service? Encourage the campers to think on a large scale. What is calling for service globally, nationally, or locally in our community? What kind of organization would be needed to carry out service projects to meet those larger needs?

### **Shhhh!**

LUJ

**Objective:** Experience the importance of sensory awareness for survival.

Sensory awareness is vitally important to animals in the wild. Whether or not an animal can effectively see, hear, and smell may mean the difference between life and death.

Even predators that hunt other animals are wary of being hunted themselves.

Blindfold one person in the group. Instruct the others to scatter out in a circle around the blindfolded person. The campers in the circle must try to sneak up on the blindfolded person without being detected. If the blindfolded person hears a noise, he or she may point in the direction of the noise. If correct, the person who made the noise must sit down. If someone gets close enough to touch the blindfolded person, he or she gets to be the next one who is blindfolded. Give everyone a turn at being blindfolded.

Add a twist to the game. Choose someone to distract the blindfolded person by talking or shouting. Afterwards, compare the ways of playing the game. What might distract an animal in the wild enough to prove fatal? What kinds of things distract us from following God? What things has God given us to help us stay alive and alert in our faith?

### **Listen, God is Calling**

LUJSAI

**Objective:** Increase our awareness of the voice of God in the sounds of nature.

Find a quiet place that is undisturbed by human noise. Instruct everyone to sit down in a circle, close their eyes, and join hands. Inform them that you are going to send them a message simply by squeezing their hands. When a person's hand is squeezed, he or she is to send the squeeze on down the line, like the game "Electricity."

Sit silently for awhile. Wait for a sound in nature (that is, a birdcall); then squeeze the hand of the first person in line. That person passes the squeeze on. Wait again to hear the same sound, and send the squeeze again. Repeat this a few times. Afterwards, ask, "What

was I trying to communicate to you?” Let them guess. Continue to play the game until everyone understands how the communication process works. If you wish, give each camper a chance to be the leader. Discuss the value of silence in nature. Discuss what it means to abide in Christ, what it means to listen to God, and what can distract us from hearing God’s voice.

## **Bird Calling**

### **LUJSAI**

**Objective:** Make connections between birdcalls and the way humans communicate. Visit a bird feeding station, or hike to a location where you are likely to be visited by birds. Encourage everyone to sit quietly and listen to the birds. Try to identify the birds that you hear or see.

Birds call for a variety of reasons. They call to claim territory, to attract mates, to warn of danger, and to comfort their young. Some birds, such as the mockingbird, appear to enjoy mimicking other birds. Encourage anyone who knows a birdcall to share it. If you wish, make use of the birdcalls listed below.

- Robin: tyeep, tut-tut-tut
- Mourning Dove: coah, cooo, cooo, coo
- Chickadee: chick-a-dee-dee-dee
- Red-tailed Hawk: keeer-r-r
- Great Horned Owl: hoo, hoo-oo, hoo, hoo
- Red-winged Blackbird: konk-la-ree, o-ka-lay
- Killdeer: kill-deeah
- Bluebird: chur-wi

People also communicate in a variety of ways. We are heard speaking, shouting, whispering, arguing, humming, and so on. Encourage the campers to think of the ways they communicate with others. What type of words do they use? Do they speak differently to different people? How can they improve their communication skills?

## **Distance Direction**

### **UJS**

**Objective:** Practice listening and communication skills over a great distance.

Hike to a large open area or field. Instruct the campers that they are to remain on one end of the field while you go to the other end. Before leaving, however, tell them that you are going to give them instructions by calling to them when you get to the other side. First, you are going to use your voice to give directions. Then you are going to act out a set of five more directions. Instruct them to follow your directions as closely as possible.

When you get to the other side, begin calling directions to the group. Give verbal commands: sit down, stand up, turn around, raise your hands, and jump up and down. Repeat the same verbal commands by acting them out. Observe how the group follows instructions.

Gather to discuss what happened. Which commands were difficult to understand? Was it easier to follow the voice commands or the actions? How do words and actions play a part in our lives as people of faith?