

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Samuel and Moana

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

A Moment to Remember: Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?

Read this passage from the Bible (1 Samuel 3:1-10 NRSV):

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."

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

Moana

Guided by the ocean.

Awesome grandma got her started.

Connected to Te Fiti's heart.

Leaders.

Leaders of leaders.

Big expectations from family but also lots of support.

Had to take a big leap of faith.

Samuel

Guided by God.

Awesome prophet—Eli—got him started.

Connected to Ark of the Covenant.

Theme in Scripture – Faith:

Here we have Samuel at the beginning of his story. He had served at the temple from a very early age because his mother Hannah considered him a miracle child and a gift from God. There were a lot of expectations for Samuel, even from an early age. The story of Samuel's calling by God shows us how much he trusted Eli. Samuel is ready to jump to attention and answer Eli's call. That's probably because Eli was a wise leader—a prophet and judge—with many many years of experience. Everything that Samuel learned from Eli, the encouragement of his mother, and his trust in God would soon help him to grow into a great prophet. **In what ways did Samuel show faith during his encounter with God's voice?**

Theme on the Screen – Faith:

Samuel's career as a prophet included great responsibilities, like finding the first kings of Israel—but also standing up to those kings when they turned out to be a disappointment and getting them back on the right track. Moana must have been pretty disappointed when she first met Maui. He was not what she had hoped for. Rather than following Maui, Moana found her own way forward and ended up leading him. **How did Moana restore Maui's faith in himself and in his role as a demigod?**

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of faith.

Why? *(Is it when Moana's grandmother sends her on her way, or when Moana took a leap into the underworld, or when Maui swooped in towards the end to finally help Moana, or another scene?)*

Bonus question: What's your favorite Maui transformation?