**SERMON PLAN Date:**

**Series theme:** Thank God, I’m a Methodist

Sermon Title: “There’s a Reason”

Sermon Purpose:

Scriptures: Major ideas:

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| --- | --- |
| 1 Samuel 3: 1-11  God calls the boy Samuel. | Sunday Schools preceded Kindergartens. We educate children, because Children are called by God to grow into adult leaders. |

**Intro: Not Cheating.**

**The TEXT : God Calls Samuel – as a boy**

God calls Joseph as a boy. God calls David as a boy. Mary is just barely marriageable, really a girl.

Samuel is already apprenticed to Eli.

**1. Methodism is BIG on Reason.**

a. Yes, Faith, Hope and Love, are emotions and raise us to a loving relationship with the living God.

b. But Reason guides that relationship.

c. Reason helps us to fully understand scripture, to better understand ourselves, and to better interface with our larger world around us.

**2. Our belief in Reason plays out first in our love of Children and Youth**

a. Remember that in 1780’s there were no Public Schools. The idea of a school for every boy was started by Robert Raikes.

b. But in 1769 a Methodist Laywoman named Hannah Ball had started a Sunday School for children of High Wycombe.

c. 1784 the Christmas Conference, 63 Methodist preachers in America gather to form a denomination. Only 1 had ever been to college, and all were very poor, yet they voted to start a college. In 1787 Cokesbury College opened in Abingdon, Maryland.

d. Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn. 1831.

Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA 1830.

Allegheney at Meadville, PA 1833

Emory, Atlanta 1836

DePauw U in 1837

Duke, NC (Trinity College) 1838

Boston University (Newburry Institute) 1839

Ohio Wesleyan, 1842

Willamette, Salem, OR 1842

University of the Pacific, (CA Wesleyan) Stockton,

CA 1851

Northwestern, IL 1851

Denver U, 1864

Syracuse, NY 1870

U.S.C 1880

**3. Reason also dictates an open mind about science.**

a. United Methodists are NOT creationists. We do not believe in “Creation-science.”

b. The world was not created in 6 – 24 hour days.

c. Jonah was not a real person

d. The Bible contains rules which do not apply today.

Polygamy, eating pork, stoning adulterers, etc.

**Conclusion: Methodist are free to believe that science can heal and prayer can heal, and it’s best when used together.**

**And we are eager to teach the truth to people of all ages, even when it’s unpopular to do so.**

Little Billy brought home his first report card from third grade, the marks were just awful. His mother gave him a good tongue lashing and said, “Well, what have you got to say for yourself?” He thought for a minute and said, “Well, at least you know I’m not cheating!”

**Scripture**

## 1 Sam 3:1-11

## Samuel’s Calling and Prophetic Activity

3Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the 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. 4Then the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ 5and 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. 6The 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.’ 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8The 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. 9Therefore 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.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ 11Then the Lord said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.