



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: 1 Samuel 3:1-14 –

Learning to recognize the voice of Jesus

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

In what way are we hesitant to say that we have “heard from God”? Why? (good or bad reasons)

Can you describe a time, or circumstance that you “heard” from God? What was the result?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

1. In what way is the story of Samuel and Eli helpful to us in understanding that we can learn to recognize the voice of God? What was Eli’s role in helping Samuel hear from God?
2. If communication is simply guiding somebody else’s thoughts, in what way can God guide us to think a thought, to take an action that we might not think or take on our own?
3. How can we become more open to hearing from God in our lives? What prevents us (cynicism, how others have abused this idea etc...) from the possibility that we may be hearing from God?
4. Of the three lights God uses to speak to us (Providential circumstances, Impressions of the Spirit and Scripture) which is most difficult to understand? How can these lights free us to better discern God’s voice?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 Samuel 3:1-14]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How is Eli described in this passage? (3:2)

Why was Samuel lying down in the temple of the Lord? (3:3)

How would you characterize Samuel’s relationship to Eli? (3:4-5)

What did Samuel assume about the voice he heard in the night? (3:5)

How many times did Samuel come to Eli before Eli realized what was happening? (3:8-9)

How did Eli instruct Samuel to react to the voice he heard? (3:9)

What future events did God reveal to Samuel that night? (3:11-12)

What decision regarding the priesthood of Israel did God reveal? (3:12)

What reasons did God give for judging Eli so harshly? (3:13)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What dilemma faced Samuel when Eli questioned him about God's message?

What was Israel's relationship to God at the time of this story? (it's okay to google this 😊)

How would you characterize our day and age with regard to people hearing from God?

What characteristics of the boy Samuel made him a suitable person to hear from God?

What was good or bad about Eli's reaction to the gloomy prophecy about his descendants?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?