

WEEK 2 - SAMUEL THE ATTENTIVE CHILD PROPHET

OVERVIEW

One of the most important prophets in the history of Israel was a man named Samuel. He played a deeply vital role in shaping the calling, rule, and even repentance of King David. But Samuel's story did not begin with him as a wizened old prophet; it began when he was a child. The story of Samuel's calling is an encouragement that we can all hear the voice of God if we listen attentively. What might happen in our own faith if we were willing to say to God, as Samuel did, "Speak, your servant is listening"?

The LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." **1 Samuel 3:10**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **1.** How does it make you feel when you are awakened in the night and you think someone is talking to you?
- 2. Read <u>1 Samuel 3:1-6</u>.
 - a. Describe the situation in Israel and in the tabernacle with Samuel and Eli.
 - **b.** What do you notice about Samuel's response when he thinks Eli is calling him? (see also <u>Genesis</u> <u>22:1</u>, <u>Genesis 46:2</u>, <u>Exodus 3:4</u>, <u>Isaiah 6:8</u>)
- 3. Read <u>1 Samuel 3:7-21</u>.

a. Why do you think the Lord chose to speak to Samuel, even when he was only twelve years old?b. What can we learn from Samuel's experience?

- 4. What are some ways that we can hear from God? How do you know if God is calling you?
- 5. Have you ever experienced a time when God has tried to get your attention in different ways? If so, share your experience and how God got your attention.
- 6. What kinds of noise can keep us from listening when God is speaking?
- 7. How can you make yourself available for God to speak to you?