

Hearing God's Call

Pastor's message: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Message Notes:

Wednesday

Read: 1 Samuel 3:8 *Eli's understanding*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever heard the voice of God? What was that like?*
2. *Do you feel God has something to say to you?*

Prayer Focus Be patient with us, God, as we work to hear and understand what you are saying to us. Open our ears to your voice speaking through others, through the noise all around us, and through our own doubts and fears. Keep us focused on you.

Thursday

Read: 1 Samuel 3:9 *Eli's instruction*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you listen for the voice of God?*
2. *What are some ways in which you can improve your ability to hear God's voice?*

Prayer Focus Because we need to be in relationship with you, Holy One, we re-commit to you now, and to positioning ourselves to listen. We will listen in hope and trust that your words are meant for good, always.

Friday

Read: 1 Samuel 3:10 *God and Samuel*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think Samuel would have heard God if Eli hadn't told him how to listen?*
2. *What word would you most like to hear from God—for yourself, our church, our community?*

Prayer Focus It is so good to know that we are not alone, that you are the God who calls us not only to you, but to your work in the world. Let us hear you calling us to do justice, mercy, and kindness. Your servants are listening.



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *In your life experience, who has been the best listener? What made them the best?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **1 Samuel 3:1-10**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

HEARING GOD'S CALL

January 14, 2024

Monday

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-3 *Samuel and Eli*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean that word of the Lord and visions were rare?*
2. *Do you think that the word of the Lord is rare in our time?*

Prayer Focus We long to hear from you, God, loud and clear. We also fear to hear from you because we sometimes don't want to change in response to your word. Make us ready to know you, truly.

Tuesday

Read: 1 Samuel 3:4-7 *God calls*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Samuel was almost a child, yet he was quick to respond to the voice he heard. What does that say about the relationship between Samuel and Eli?*
2. *Why do you think God chose these two people to be a part of his work?*

Prayer Focus Wake us up, Speaking God. Wake us up with a tug on our sleeve or nudge in our hearts. Help us welcome the sound of your voice, the awareness of your presence. Teach us to look for ways to connect with you.