

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Talk About

- Have you ever been (or know someone) who was scared of the dark? Why was it so frightening? How did you (they) overcome the fear?
- How would you feel if God clearly told you a particular message for someone else? Would you deliver the message?
- How do you respond when you hear about others who have “visions” and/or “words” from God?

Read About

- How often did God's word come to the people (v.1)?
- What was Eli's physical difficulty (v.2)?
- What equipment in the tabernacle needed to remain alight (v.3)? Why was this important? See Leviticus 24:1-4.
- Compare the wordings when God calls Samuel (v.4, 6, 8, 10).
- In what sense did Samuel “know” the Lord after his call in a way that he didn't know before (v.7)?
- What did Eli tell Samuel to say when God called (v.9)? What word is missing from what Samuel actually said (v.10)? Why?

Think About

- Does God speak to Christians today in the same dramatic way that He spoke to Samuel? Why, or why not?
- How can you show yourself to be as ready as Samuel was to hear and receive God's word?
- Do you think it is important for Christians to have a spiritual ‘mentor’? What could happen if the mentor is wrong?
- What part of your Christian life has God been speaking to you about as a result of reading this Bible passage?
- You could end by reading / memorising 1 Samuel 3:10.

1 Samuel 3 (NIVUK)

The Lord calls Samuel

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'