

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 15, 2018

“A Voice In The Night” Pastor Hook 8:15, 9:30 Pastor Temple 11

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Eyes Wide Open, Luke 24:13-25)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- What do you remember about your confirmation class or baptism experience? How did you believe the Spirit of God was working in your life at that time?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, 1 Samuel 3:1-10. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

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 realized 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.”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- How did Samuel come to be a servant in the house of the Lord as a young person (1 Samuel chapter 1)?
- What kind of problems was Eli experiencing with leading his sons in service to the Lord's work in the temple (1 Samuel 2:12-17)?
- Why did the Lord not speak directly to the priest Eli and instead spoke to him through a 12 year old boy who "did not yet know the Lord?"
- How do you respond to the statement based on 1 Samuel 2:30 "As you honor God, He will honor you."

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Romans 12:3-11. How do verses 4-8 present the idea that the people of God have unique callings from the Lord?
- How do you respond to the statement by Olympic runner Eric Liddel, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast and when I run I feel his pleasure." Have you felt that kind of confirmation in joy from the Lord before? How so?
- How does Romans 12 verses 3 and 9-10 present ideals which challenge the character of the sons of Eli and how they fulfilled their roles as priests in the House of the Lord?
- How does Romans 12:11 challenge the people of Israel as described above in 1 Samuel 3:1?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- The calling of Samuel was to help deliver God's people out of lethargy and indifference. What do you believe God may be calling you to do or be?
- What other "calling" stories of the Bible do you relate to? Jesus calling those to simply follow him like the fisherman or the tax collector? Nathaniel receiving an invitation from his friend Philip to "come and see" Jesus of Nazareth? God calling Moses through a burning bush to be used by Him as means of delivering his people? Jonah who was fleeing from God and was captured by a whale and spat upon the shore of the people that God wanted him to reach out to? Other calling stories?
- Have you made yourself available and invited God to speak to you as Samuel did? If so, what happened and what was the experience like? If not, is that something you would be willing to try this week?
- Are there particular roles of service or areas of participation in the life of Christ Church that you would pray specifically about?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- In what ways could you "honor God" this week that would be a positive witness to others around you?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.