

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Samuel (Learning from a Remarkable Child)

Week 3: Upstream

1 Samuel 2:11-35

Week of May 23, 2021

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

After being adopted into Eli's family, Samuel discovered he had new brothers devoted to a lifestyle of sin. Samuel did not follow their example. He lived a life of holiness in a context of evil. We must do the same.

Kicking it off: For the introduction of his sermon, Jeff got to kayak for the first time. Have you ever participated in a river sport? Tell the group what you did.

Discussion:

1. Reread 1 Samuel 2:13-14 (NLT) *Whenever anyone offered a sacrifice, Eli's sons (Phinehas & Hophni) would send over a servant with a three-pronged fork. While the meat of the sacrificed animal was still boiling, the servant would stick the fork into the pot and demand that whatever it brought up be given to Eli's sons.*

In what ways does our culture reflect the action and mindset of Eli's sons?

2. If anyone resisted the attempt of Eli's sons to take food from the worshipers, the sons would use force to secure compliance. Their servants would say, "Give it to me now, or I'll take it by force" [1 Samuel 2:16].

How can we use our "power" to benefit others instead of ourselves?

3. Reread 1 Samuel 2:12 *Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord.*

What does it mean to have "no regard for the Lord?"

4. Reread 1 Samuel 2:21 (NLT) *Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.*

Phinehas & Hophni also grew up in the tabernacle, but they did not grow up "in the presence of the Lord." What did Samuel experience that Phinehas & Hophni missed?

5. Reread 1 Samuel 2:22 (NLT) *Eli's sons seduced the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle.*

How could these young men do such evil sin in such a holy place?

6. Reread God's words to Eli in 1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV) *"Those who honor me I will honor."*

Is this a promise of a life of ease to the faithful believers? What is it a promise of?

7. Reread 1 Samuel 2:26 (NIV) *The boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord.*

What does it mean to "grow in favor with the Lord?"

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the strength to obey the Lord in the midst of a culture headed the opposite direction.