

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Samuel (Lessons from a Remarkable Child)

Week 4: Hearing God

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Week of May 30, 2021

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

God spoke to Samuel, but it took him a while to recognize that the voice was from God. Samuel learned the precious skill of recognizing God's voice. We must learn it too.

Kicking it off: Telephone technology has changed much over the decades. Can you remember what your telephone was like when you were a child? If so, describe it.

Discussion:

1. Reread 1 Samuel 3:4 *Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.*

Samuel's proximity to the ark of the covenant was an important factor in his experience of hearing the voice of God. How can we, like Samuel, get closer to God?

2. Reread 1 Samuel 3:5 *Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."*

Samuel didn't recognize God's voice. Why do we struggle to recognize God's voice?

3. Reread 1 Samuel 3:8 *Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy.*

How did Eli realize that God was the one calling to Samuel?

4. Reread 1 Samuel 3:12 *The Lord said to Samuel, "I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family."*

Samuel gained confidence that the voice was, in fact, from God because this message was consistent with that already spoken by the prophet. We must examine a possible message from God by comparing it to God's Word. Come up with hypothetical messages that could be rejected because they contradict Scripture.

5. Can you come up with an example of when God spoke to you? If so, tell the group about it.

6. What possible benefits would come from hearing God more?

Wrapping It Up: In verse 10, Samuel prayed, *"Speak, for your servant is listening."* Pray the same by asking God to speak and to help you recognize His voice.