

Week 19: Samuel — Hearing the Voice of the Lord

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1–21 (KJV)

With Commentary Throughout

1 Samuel 3:1

“And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.”

Commentary:

The days of Eli were marked by spiritual decline. God’s voice was rare—not because He had changed, but because the people no longer listened. Yet in the silence, God raised up Samuel, a child with a heart to serve. **God speaks to those who are positioned in humility and obedience.**

1 Samuel 3:4–5

“That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli...”

Commentary:

Samuel did not recognize God’s voice at first. He assumed it was Eli. This teaches us that **discerning God’s voice often requires guidance**. Spiritual mentors, like Eli, help younger believers understand when God is calling.

1 Samuel 3:9–10

“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.”

Commentary:

This simple response reveals a heart ready to receive. God doesn’t shout over noise—He

speaks to those who are still, attentive, and ready to obey. Samuel's response should become the daily posture of every believer, especially within the home.

1 Samuel 3:19–21

“And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him... And the LORD appeared again... for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.”

Commentary:

God continued to speak to Samuel because Samuel continued to listen. As he matured, his influence grew. A listening heart is a lasting vessel. **God uses those who treasure His Word and walk faithfully in it.**



Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- Who called Samuel in the night?
- What did Samuel say when God called him?
- How can we listen to God today?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why was God's voice rare in Samuel's time?
- How can you train yourself to recognize when God is speaking?
- What might distract us from hearing God's Word?

Adults:

- How can you cultivate a listening environment in your home?
- What are some ways God speaks today (e.g., through Scripture, prayer, godly counsel)?
- What hinders us from hearing and obeying God's voice consistently?



Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:4–5, 8–10 (KJV)

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation...

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Commentary:

This Psalm reflects Samuel's heart—a desire to be taught and led by the Lord. God reveals His will to those who keep His covenant and humbly walk in His ways.



Hymn: “Speak, Lord, in the Stillness”

By Emily May Grimes (1890)

1.

Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
While I wait on Thee;
Hushed my heart to listen
In expectancy.

2.

Speak, O blessed Master,
In this quiet hour;
Let me see Thy face, Lord,
Feel Thy touch of power.

3.

Speak, Thy servant heareth,
Be not silent, Lord;
Waits my soul upon Thee
For the quickening word.

4.

Fill me with the knowledge
Of Thy glorious will;

All Thine own good pleasure
In Thy child fulfill.



Family Application Points

- 1. Make Room for Silence:**
Set aside time daily for quiet listening—no phones, no noise. Teach your children that **hearing from God begins with stillness.**
 - 2. Pray Samuel's Prayer Together:**
Encourage everyone in the household to say, *"Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."* This simple prayer forms hearts ready for direction and correction.
 - 3. Prioritize God's Word:**
Reading Scripture aloud daily helps your home become a place where God's voice is honored and heard. His Word is His voice.
 - 4. Train Children to Recognize God's Call:**
Like Eli did for Samuel, guide your children in discerning God's leading through prayer, Scripture, and wise counsel. Help them answer God's call early in life.
 - 5. Value Spiritual Mentorship:**
Whether in the home or church, encourage relationships where younger believers can grow through the wisdom and correction of elders.
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Closing Prayer

Speak, O Lord, for we are listening. In a noisy world full of confusion and distraction, teach us to still our hearts before You. Help us to recognize Your voice and obey without delay. Let our home be like Shiloh—a place where You dwell and speak. Raise up sons and daughters who respond like Samuel, saying, "Here am I." May we grow in wisdom, favor, and faithfulness as we hear and do Your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.