



"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

## Bible Study:



Read 1 Samuel 3, and contemplate God's desire to provide His word, and shine His light into a depraved world. The text tells us both that the word of the Lord was rare in these times, yet that God's word came before the light of the lamp (the menorah which provided light in the Holy Place), had gone out. This provides a strong image of the light growing dim due to the depravity of men's hearts, yet God would not let sin prevail. And consider how Samuel's words really should echo the desires of our hearts for God to speak to us, and that *we are listening!*

## The gospel in the story:



Samuel's calling comes on the tail end of the time of Judges, when "everyone did as he saw fit." And because of Israel's depravity (which reflects the depravity of all unregenerate hearts) and rebellion, things were not well. In fact, corruption had even infiltrated the office of the priest (particularly in Eli's sons). God's installment of Samuel is a picture of the larger story in play of His plan to defeat Satan sin and death through His son, Jesus.

## Application

### Head: What did we learn?

Q: Who is Eli? A: He is the priest in charge of the Temple?

Q: Who is Samuel? A: He is Hannah's son, whom Hanna dedicated to the Lord.

Q: Who called Samuel? A: God

Q: What was God's message to Samuel? A: That Eli and his household would be punished for blaspheming God

### Heart : Memory verse

"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

### Hands: How does this affect the way I live?

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." God might not answer us as loudly as He did Samuel, but He talks to us through prayer, through His Word the Bible, and through His Holy Spirit.

### Home: How does this affect my household?

God is establishing a household that won't falter (as Eli's did). Followers of Christ must build on His foundation, so that our households will reflect that truth.

### Heaven: How does this help us share our faith?

Eli's sons lived in a way that showed their lord wasn't God, it was their selfishness. Our prayer is that friends and neighbors will see that knowing and Loving God is our highest pursuit – that we don't just say we follow Jesus, but that our actions *show it*