

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



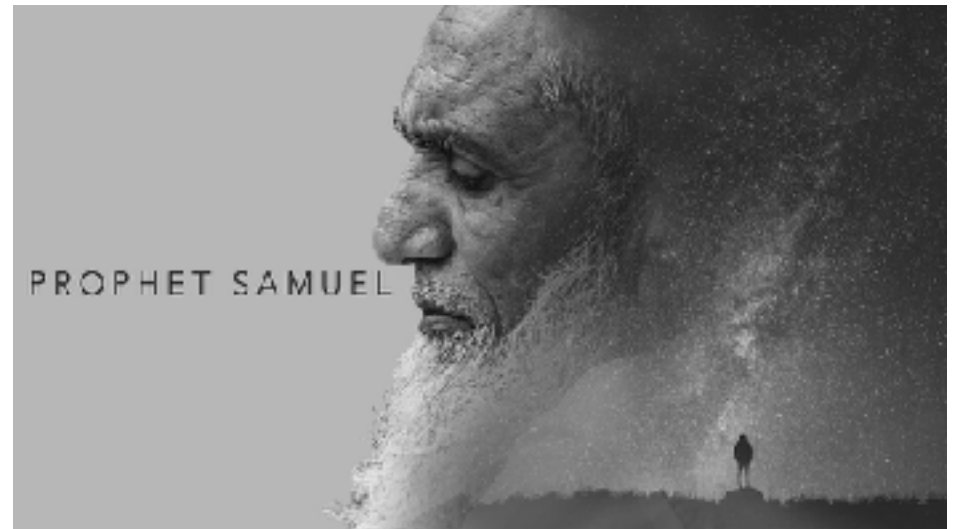
FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What do you like about the boy Samuel?
2. What did you learn from the prophecy about Eli and his family?
3. What do you learn about God and His desire for us?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS SERIES

Psa. 99:6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them.

THE MAP



May 19 & 20, 2018 | Samuel #2 | 1 Samuel 3 | Dennis Miller, pastor

TWO THOUGHTS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. In each generation there are a FEW people who live differently than those around them, who TRUST God, and who therefore make an enormous positive IMPACT.
2. A Christian life is not measured by success or failure but by a Godly CHARACTER.

SOME CONTEXT

1. Samuel's mom, HANNAH, had prayed for a child and promised to RETURN him to the Lord. Samuel was taken to the Tabernacle as a small boy and LIVED there with Eli the priest.
2. Eli's sons were WICKED priests and were leading Israel in the wrong direction. It was a DARK time for Israel. (1Sam. 2)
3. Even though Samuel was a CHILD living in Shiloh, he followed the Lord and SERVED Him faithfully.

1Sam. 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

1Sam. 2:18 But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—. . .

4. This story contains a wonderful HEBREW word, “henini” (הִנֵּנִי), used FIVE times. The word means more than “I am HERE”. It includes the idea of READINESS or “at your service”. (Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Ananias)

THE CALLING OF SAMUEL

1Sam. 3:1 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."

1. Time has PASSED but Samuel is serving the Lord. (Eli was losing his SIGHT; Josephus says that Samuel was 11 years old.) It is now EARLY morning and God breaks the silence. (v. 3)
2. There was a lot of RELIGION in Israel, but little Godliness. Without God's Word, this is ALWAYS the result.

CONTRASTS	Eli's Sons	Eli	Samuel
Life	"DEAD"	NEAR death	YOUTH
Eyes	BLIND	BARELY see	VISION
Place	FAR from God	Not CLOSE enough	NEXT to the Ark
Hearing	NEVER heard	LOST his hearing	LISTENING to God
Faith	NONE	WANING	About to BEGIN
Hope for Israel	NONE	NONE	ALL

3. God's call to Samuel was AUDIBLE and each time Samuel responded with a desire to HEAR and help ("henini"). After the third call, Eli gave good ADVICE. (Go, wait, say . . .)
4. The fourth time the Lord called, He came and STOOD by Samuel. And the child responded as EVERYONE should respond, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

THE COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE FUTURE

1Sam. 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" 15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, 16 but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." 17 "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." 18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."

1. "Tingling EARS" is a sign of God's JUDGMENT. (2Kings 21:12, Jer. 19:3)
2. THREE times God said that He WARNED Eli of the coming disaster but he refused to LISTEN or act.
3. Samuel "lay down" but probably didn't SLEEP. As soon as it was light, he began his duties, hoping not to SEE Eli. But Eli called, and Samuel was still OBEDIENT and responsive.
4. At Eli's urging, Samuel told him EVERYTHING. Eli, either out of faith or resignation, responded PROPERLY.

THE CHANGE FOR ISRAEL

1Sam. 3:19 The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. 21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

1. Samuel experienced the Lord's PRESENCE and God honored him by fulfilling His WORDS.
2. Everyone knew that this was a NEW beginning, and a NEW prophet. The Lord continued to SPEAK to and through Samuel.

THE CHARGE TO US

1. There are THREE kinds of people in the story: those who are far from God (UNGODLY); those who appear to be near Him but are still not close enough (RELIGIOUS); and those who are with God (RIGHTEOUS).
2. Are you close ENOUGH to the Lord to hear Him when He calls?