



# Small Group Study Guide for January 17, 2021

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Of all the voices we should discern and listen to, the voice of the Lord is the most important. God speaks! To Samuel He came as a voice in the night. Jesus is the word made flesh, who dwelt among us. In a world of confusion and darkness, God reveals Himself and His word to us through Jesus Christ. We respond with “speak Lord, for your servant is listening!”

## **Getting Started:**

1. Share an example of a time in your life when you really felt God leading you, guiding you, and speaking to you through His word.
2. Share another example of a time in your life where you felt like God was silent, or that it was difficult to discern His presence.

## **In the Word: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

3. First get some orientation and context for 1 Samuel. Notice where it is located in the Old Testament. What came just before this book? What comes after? Look at the subject in the first 1-3 chapters, and then look at the subject in the last 1-3 chapters. At what point of Israel’s history does 1 Samuel chapter 3 take place?
4. Samuel was just a boy, ministering in the “house of the Lord” which was the tabernacle, the tent that held the Ark of the Covenant, altar of incense, menorah (lampstand) and other sacred items. How many times total does God come to Samuel to get his attention?
5. Verse 7 says that “Samuel did not yet know the Lord.” How could he not yet know the Lord if he was serving in the house of the Lord, in the tabernacle? What might this verse mean?
6. When Eli finally figures it out, he tells Samuel how to respond to the voice he is hearing. When the Lord came to Samuel again, Samuel responded with “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” What is the difference between listening and hearing?

## Putting it Together

7. Read 1 Samuel 3:17-21 to find the conclusion to this story. What happened to Samuel as a result of this encounter with God?
  
8. God was not obvious and direct with Samuel when He came to Him. It took several times before Samuel and Eli figured out it was the Lord. Why do you think God often acts this way - in subtle, mysterious, and not so obvious ways? (hint - it may have to be that God is trying to evoke a certain response from us)
  
9. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. Is there a difference in the ways that God spoke to the prophets of old and how God speaks now?
  
10. Colossians 3:16 says "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God." How do Christians let the word of Christ "dwell in us richly" and how do we apply the difference between "hearing" and "listening" when it comes to God's Word in our lives today?
  
11. One of the missional living practices is #2 Listening to Jesus in His Word. As disciples of Jesus, we want Him to speak into our lives, to teach us, talk to us, and direct us through His word. This means that Christians are to be reading it regularly! The key missional living question that goes with this practice is, "What has God been telling you lately in His word?" How would you answer that?

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and witness to Christ during these days of pandemic, and to reveal God's Word to us through the Scriptures. Ask that we might all repent of our own sins, stay humble and faithful to God, and "turn down the noise" to "turn up Jesus" and God's word in our lives. Speak Lord!

Check out our Wednesday Bible Study on Revelation in person or on Live Stream at each Wednesday in person at 11 a.m. and online at 1 p.m. [www.oursaviorlansing.org/livestream](http://www.oursaviorlansing.org/livestream). Also check the Faith Resources Page for some other links to great Bible Studies.