



Small Group Study Guide for January 16, 2022

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Samuel was a prophet of the Lord and a judge of Israel. He had a strange calling from God, in which he thought his mentor Eli was calling him, but it was God. Samuel who was a prophet during a difficult time of Israel, uttered the words that we ought to speak when God calls us, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. God answered the prayers of Hannah when she asked for a son. How has God answered your prayers, and what have you been praying for this week?
2. Eli took Samuel under his wing after his mother Hannah dedicated his life to service of the Lord. Who are those people in your life that you can mentor or take under your wing in a sense and share Jesus with them?

In the Word: 1 Samuel 1

3. This is a large chunk of scripture, but it is about the backstory and dedication of Samuel. Before Hannah went away from the temple, Eli told her to go in peace, and that God may grant her what she asked of Him. Here, Hannah's prayers were answered as she then conceived and gave birth to Samuel, and this leads to Samuel's name. What is the significance of Samuel's name, which literally means, "I asked him?"
4. Why did Hannah offer Samuel up to the Lord as a servant? And how did this show her loyalty and love for the Lord?

In the Word: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

5. In the days of Samuel, visions and the word of the Lord were scarce. Even though we don't hear of visions or straight from God, how do we hear God, and see Him working?
6. Samuel hears God speaking, and finally calls out after speaking with Eli, "Speak, your servant is listening." How can we live our lives like Samuel, seeking the call of God.

In the Word: John 1:43-51

7. Jesus before this section of scripture and calls Andrew and Peter. Here he calls Philip and Nathanael. Just as God called Samuel, Jesus calls his disciples. Just as God calls Samuel and the disciples, He calls us. How has God called you, and how are you serving Him?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. We all have different callings in life. How can we help those who are struggling to find their calling find what God has in store for them?
9. God answers prayers with yes, no, or wait. How have you seen God answering your prayers in this way, and how can you help others, when they are struggling with God answering their prayers?

Prayer: Praise God for His calling in your life. Just as God called Samuel, and Jesus called His disciples, we thank God for calling us to be His followers, and making us His children. Give thanks for God having plans for us, and even when we are not sure of them, that He takes care of us.

Next Week: Jonah was one who didn't want to go to Nineveh after God commanded him to go. We will take a look at how even though Jonah was reluctant, God was not reluctant, and gave His grace freely to the Ninevites.