

Life Group Discussion Guide

Little Stories, Big Picture - May 9

LEADER NOTES

This week Pastor Laura Hall continued our Little Stories, Big Picture series by looking at the story of Samuel. Like many Old Testament characters, the story of Samuel's life centers around expectations and purpose. He hears a calling from God, and isn't sure what to do with it. Many of us can relate to that experience.

As we pursue the life that God is calling us to, we may feel like we're stepping into the unknown. Are we willing to trust that God is leading us to our best life? The life that we were created for?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

1 Samuel 3:1-12 (NLT)

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

² One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. ⁴ Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!"

"Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" ⁵ He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.

⁶ Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!"

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

⁷ Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. ⁸ So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. ⁹ So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

¹⁰ And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. ¹² I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end.

LOOK UP

In this week's text, Eli finally realizes that Samuel is hearing the voice of God. Is there anyone in your life that helps you hear or recognize God's voice and leading in your life?

LOOK AROUND

Describe a time when your expectations were fulfilled.

Describe a time when your expectations were left unfulfilled.

How do you respond when you do not hear or sense clear direction in your life? Do you tend to wait until you know exactly what God wants you to do or do you charge ahead on your own?

LOOK AHEAD

What good things in your life may be keeping you from the best things God has for your life?

PRAYER