

## Sermon Discussion Guide (for small groups, families, or individuals)



### For Our Family to Find You – Our First Love: Putting God first In Our Lives

Ever notice how God will save someone and bring them to faith out of a bad faithless family situation? And ever notice how some people who are raised in an amazing faith-filled family inexplicably turn away from the Lord? In this two week series we will look at two families from 1 Samuel chapters 1-3 that are headed different directions, and we'll talk about what we can do to steer our families away from Satan and towards Jesus! --Pastor Jeremy Lind

#### How does God speak to us?

##### GOD'S WORD

###### Hebrews 1:1-2 (NLT)

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

###### 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

##### THE HOLY SPIRIT

###### John 14:25-26 (NASB)

"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

##### OTHERS (as checked against Scripture)

###### 1 Corinthians 4:15

For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you.

##### Tips for Group/Family Leaders

- Review questions and discussion points in advance.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you.
- Read and discuss each section.
- Be sensitive to members' level of spirituality.
- Discuss how to apply God's Word.
- Plan to take action.

Sermon discussion guide prepared by Caroline Cooper. (816) 589-0356. ccooper628@gmail.com.

#### Connect

*Read Revelation 2:1-4.* God does not want a surface relationship with us. He wants true intimacy. The church at Ephesus persevered and did not grow weary in doing good deeds. "But I have this against you," Jesus said, "that you have left your first love." How is this problem in the Ephesus church seen in our world today? In the Church? What are some warning signs that your family and/or you as an individual may have let Jesus slip out of the number one place in your life?

#### Explore

*Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10.* When Eli told Samuel God was calling to him, Samuel was ready to listen.

- When we hear God's voice, we may need to set aside our will and desires. Discuss Pastor Jeremy's statement: "To listen [to God] is to give up control."

*How does God speak to us? How do we know God's voice?*

1. **God speaks through his Word.** *Read Heb 1:1-2 and 2 Tim 3:16-17.* Today, we have easy access to the Bible. Define/discuss the following purposes of Scripture: (1) reproof, (2) correction, (3) training in righteousness, (4) be complete and equipped. Which of these points do you experience most often when reading God's Word? Which do you need to experience more?
2. **God speaks through the Holy Spirit.** *Read John 14:25-26 and John 16:13.* How is the Holy Spirit involved in our reading and understanding of God's Word?
3. **Make space and time to listen to God.** *Review 1 Sam 3:9-10. Read Luke 22:39-41.* To listen to God, we need to put ourselves in a position to hear him speak. How do you prepare to receive God's words? Or, does an intentional time of preparation or positioning need to become a part of your prayer life?
4. **God speaks through others.** *Read 1 Sam 2:11-21.* When Samuel finally heard God's words, it was a message for Eli. A difficult message and, not surprisingly, Samuel was hesitant to share. But even with the challenges in Eli's family, he was a man of God and wanted to hear God's words. Can you share a time when God spoke to you through a friend, mentor, pastor, or other person? Or, a time God had something for you to share with someone else? What was the result?
5. **Obey God when he speaks.** *Psalms 119:18, 34.* Psalm 119 contains many beautiful verses about God's Word. What do verses 18 and 34 teach? *Read John 14:21.* What does Jesus say about obeying God's Word? How can this verse motivate you to be more obedient to God's guidance in your life?

#### Transform and Respond

*Judges 21:25.* During the period of the judges, after entering the promised land and before the people demanded a king, the people struggled to follow God's laws. Verse 25 says, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

- In what ways does this statement seem to be true in today's world?
- How can we, as the Church, demonstrate that we stand on God's truth?
- Is God your first love? How do, or can, your thoughts, words, and actions reflect that God is first place in your life?