



A Willing Heart Ready to Hear God 1 Sam 3:1-4:1a Small Group Notes: Sunday 18th September 2022

Our passage comes at a time when there was great depravity. What can you think of from the book of Judges or earlier in 1 Samuel that might give you a picture of this?

Read 1 Samuel 3:1 – the word of LORD was rare

Why should this verse cause concern? What stands out to you here?

Why was God speaking to Israel so *rare* at the beginning of chapter 3?

What might stop us from hearing God, or stop God from speaking?

Today's passage is about the making of a prophet. Samuel will become a prophet of God and it will significantly help the nation of Israel.

Often people get funny ideas about what a prophet is. What does it mean to say that someone is a prophet? What examples can you think of from the Bible?

For some of us the label of prophet might feel too big. At a more basic level we can hear the challenge to hear God more and be willing to share honestly and boldly what they hear with others.

Read 1 Samuel 3:2-10 – Hearing God

Why would God speak to Samuel and not Eli?

What are some things that stand out to you from this story? What do you find odd?

Often for people hearing God is distinctly God. What might be encouraging or helpful about Samuel's experience?

Why does God speak in so many different ways? What ways can you think of?

What do we see about Samuel in the way he responds?

How was Samuel in a position to hear from God?

How can we place ourselves in a position to hear from God?

What do you see in Samuel's encounter with God? Is there anything interesting there?

Why, do you think, people are more likely to hear God at various Christian festivals or events? What can we do to encounter God more in our normal day to day?

Technology enables us to live in a 'constant state of distraction'. How can technology help or hurt our ability to hear from God?

Read 1 Samuel 3:11-18 – told him everything

Why might this have been difficult for Samuel to share?

Why is it important that we share whatever God gives us? Why does disobeying God's voice make it less likely for us to hear Him in the future?

Do you see anything in the lesson that Eli gives Samuel in verse 17? How do you read it: is Eli being helpful as a wise mentor or harsh as a bitter man who fears the future?

What if Samuel kept his mouth closed. Do you think he would have become the prophet that he became? What do you think and why?

Read 3:19-4:1 – attested as a prophet

What does it mean for none of Samuel's words to fall to the ground?

What is encouraging about what is said about Samuel here?

How can we become people that better hear God's voice and do whatever he says?