

# ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO GOD?

## 1 SAMUEL 3:1-4:1A

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - MAY 10, 2026

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#### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a (ESV)

#### REACH ONE

**REACH ONE** - *Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.*

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

#### SERMON RECAP

Samuel received the word of the Lord as God's prophet to the nation. What character qualities reflected Samuel's readiness to receive God's word?

- A lifestyle of faithfulness
- A posture of surrender
- A commitment to obedience

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Observation: What does this passage say?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
  - Who participated in the actions of this passage?
  - How is Samuel described in this passage? (1 Sam 3:1, 4, 10, 15, 18a, 19-21, 4:1a)
  - How is Eli described in this passage? (1 Sam 3:2, 5, 8, 16-17, 18b)
  - What did the Lord say and do in this passage? (1 Sam 3:10-14)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

*Interpretation: What does the passage mean?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 3:1b. Why was the word of the Lord rare in those days? (cf. Judges 21:25)
2. What was the nature of the relationship between Samuel and the Lord? What verses provide evidence of this relationship?
3. What was the nature of the relationship between Eli and the Lord? What verses provide evidence of this relationship?
4. How are the nature and character of the Lord revealed through this passage? What verses provide evidence of this?

*Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?*

1. Reflect on 1 Samuel 3:1b. The Israelites were experiencing the consequences of ignoring, refusing, and disobeying God's Word. How receptive are you to the Word of the Lord? In what areas of your life are you the most resistant to the Word?
2. Reflect on 1 Samuel 3:2-3 and Matt 25:1-13. The temple priests were responsible for keeping the gold lampstand (i.e., the lamp of God) filled with oil for light. Despite the disobedience of Israel's priests and people, the Light had not gone out altogether - the Lord's presence was still near.
  - To what degree do you seek to know the Lord's presence in your midst (cf. Deut 6:14-15; 7:21)?
  - How do you sense the Lord's presence? How do you know that he is near you? How do you hear his voice and discern his spoken word?

- What is your level of readiness for Jesus' return?
3. Despite the disobedience of Israel's priests and people, Samuel received the Word of the Lord as God's prophet to the nation. Reflect on the characteristics (listed below) of this faithful prophet and steward of God's Word. For each one, consider these questions: (a) What are some ways that the characteristic is displayed in our day; and (b) What is required in order for the characteristic to define and shape a person's life?
    - A lifestyle of faithfulness
    - A posture of surrender
    - A commitment to obedience
  4. How do you respond when God speaks to you clearly in His Word? Or, when you know He is telling you to do something, but you feel hesitant or afraid, what do you do?
  5. Other than Jesus, no human has ever perfectly stewarded the gift of faith they received from God. Jesus lived the perfectly faithful, surrendered, obedient life (cf. Phil 2:3-11; John 5:19, 8:28). While Samuel's story might challenge and inspire us, it cannot save us or empower us. Salvation and life are found only through one's relationship with the Lord. That relationship is established through faith in Jesus and empowered through the Holy Spirit (Zech 4:6; John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8). And when you finally see this, it does not just inspire you - it changes you so deeply and profoundly that the only reasonable response is, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

What do you need to say to God in response to His Word today?