

## GO DEEPER

If we want spiritually vibrant children, we must help them learn how to hear the voice of God, so that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ In I Samuel 1 & 2, we are told the story of Samuel’s mother Hannah, her prayer to God to remove her barrenness, God’s response, and Hannah’s vow in return: to give her son to the Lord.
- ❖ The ending of chapter 2 records how Hannah, with her husband’s full agreement, fulfilled her vow by leaving Samuel in the temple with Eli the high priest while he was still a young boy.
- ❖ In the passage of scripture we are looking at today, Samuel, probably around 12 years of age, was living and sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the divine presence of God was. It was as he was lying down near the Ark that he heard a voice calling him.
- ❖ He thought Eli was calling him, but it wasn’t him. Note what is said in verse 7 of the text: “Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the Word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.”
- ❖ Though Samuel had lived and ministered in the temple, he had no direct experience with God. He was so close, and yet so far....
- ❖ Eventually, Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy and instructed him in how to respond (vv 8-9).
- ❖ It’s quite telling what this verse says about the elder Eli than about the boy Samuel. As a spiritual guide, one would have expected Eli to have known what was happening to Samuel the first time he came to his bedside to tell him he thought he heard his mentor calling his name. But it wasn’t until the third time that Eli’s spiritual eyes were opened to what young Samuel was experiencing.
- ❖ In spite of this lapse, it is still commendable that Eli was able to point Samuel in the right direction, and thus began the journey of a lifetime of ministry in the Word of the Lord as a mighty prophet of God.
- ❖ But what does any of this mean for spiritual leaders, parents, and mentors today? How is this relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians or followers of God?
- ❖ “That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). As it was in the days of the prophets, so it is today—though we may be more accountable to God for what *little* we have done with the *much* that we have been given.
- ❖ For instance, the Word of God is more abundant in these days. At any time anyone can find a multitude of ways to access the truths about God. Yet there is admittedly a meagre desire for knowledge of who God is and why He should be treasured by us and our children.

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 3:1-21

- ❖ This text about Samuel should make us realize that if we are not intentional about knowing God for ourselves, we will be of no use in providing the next generation—our children—the direction they need to recognize God’s voice in their lives.
- ❖ Our children need their parents, spiritual leaders and mentors to steer them in the right direction—toward the voice of God.
- ❖ Beginning from when they are ‘babes in arms’, we must train our children to sit and listen as the preacher brings the Word instead of going for a snack or playing on mobile devices.
- ❖ Too often our children are left on their own to figure out spiritual things. When do we teach them how to “hear the voice of God”?
- ❖ Deuteronomy 6:7 instructs us to take the commandments of God and “impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at HOME and when you walk along the ROAD, when you LIE DOWN and when you GET UP” (NIV). This is how we pass on faith in God.
- ❖ Samuel grew and the LORD was with him. The Lord continued to reveal Himself to Samuel by bringing him into deeper and deeper experiences, because someone taught him how to recognize God’s voice.
- ❖ Parents. Spiritual leaders. Mentors. One day we will be gathered unto our fathers. Will the generations arising after us know the Lord or His works?
- ❖ We must teach our children the Word of God. Start them young, go deep into His Word, and do not put it down until the true and living God who wants us to be His own is found.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:7. What are the ways we can go about fulfilling this scripture?
2. For those who have children/are mentors, do you feel you are doing your best to fulfill this command? What methods do you use?
3. Is this scripture only limited to those with children? Who else can we apply it to? Please give examples of how we can do so.

### Prayer Time

“Oh, deeper yet, I pray, and higher every day, and wiser, blessed Lord, in Thy precious, holy Word” (Charles P. Jones).

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

✍️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Start-up: When you hear the phrase “Nothing new under the sun”, what comes to your thoughts?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline