

## Small Groups @ TBC - Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** 21 February 2016

**Speaker:** Mike Levy

**Title:** The Voice - Who Said That?

**Introduction:** Continuing our series on The Voice (Hearing God)

**Review:** The account is a beautiful, intimate scene with pathos. Samuel was 12 and “did not yet know the Lord” and Eli was in his 90’s and had got used to not hearing God “in those days the word of the lord was rare, there were not many visions”. Three points:

1. **How do we recognize the voice of God?** Eli and Samuel were in the right place to hear God, seeking to live the life he wanted as best they knew how. Sleeping near the Ark can be seen as a metaphor for staying close to God. A good foundation for us is to do the same - staying as close to God as possible. The second thing is that there was corroboration between what God said in Chapter 3 and what a man of God said in 1 Samuel 2 verses 27-36. We can hear God in many ways and one of the ways we know that it is God’s voice is when there is a corroboration between them.
2. **Age is no barrier to hear God.** Children and youth have a spirituality and can speak profound truths and hear the voice of God, those in their 90’s have the wisdom of years. One of the great things about the passage is that it was an inter-generational thing.
3. **God still speaks.** I wonder if Eli had given up on hearing God? Then, after not hearing his voice for a long time God speaks. Also, God did not give up on Samuel - he kept calling him until Samuel and Eli understood what was going on. The response is to listen. Listening is more than just hearing the voice, it is about understanding it, letting it dwell within us and letting it direct our response. There is something of the attitude of a humble servant about Samuel when he realizes it is the almighty creator of the world speaking to him.

**Read:** 1 Samuel 3 verses 1-14

### Reflect and Respond:

1. We speak of having a personal relationship with God, what part do conversations play in a relationship?
2. How well do you listen? What makes it hard for you to listen?
3. If we take lying beside the Ark as a metaphor for staying close to God then what does it mean, for you, to stay close to God, to be in the right place and the right time living life for Jesus as best you can?
4. What is the significance of the fact that Samuel “did not yet know the Lord”?
5. What does this say about a Child’s spirituality?
6. Share experiences of your Eli moments - times when it seems as if God has not spoken to you for a while. How did you feel? How did those times come to an end?
7. Share experiences of your corroboration moments - times when God has used a number of ways to speak a consistent message to you? What was the outcome?

**Pray:** For any issues that come from the reflection and response, but also try some quiet stillness in your prayer and use that time to listen.