

1 Samuel 3:1-21 – Samuel’s Call

Group Discussion Questions

- Verse 1: Why do you suppose the word of the Lord was rare in those days? Is there a clue in ch 7:3-4?
 - What is your own experience of hearing ‘the word of the Lord’? What does that phrase mean to you?
 - If the word of the Lord is rare it could be because God has stopped speaking – although more likely that we have stopped listening. What do you find positions you to hear God?
 - What is the connection between the ‘word of the Lord being rare’ and the detail given to us in verses 2 and 3? What do Eli’s near-blindness and the dimly burning Temple lamp communicate to us?

- Verse 4-10: Samuel was not able to recognise God’s voice because, “the Word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him”.
 - Who was it that helped you discern God’s voice? How did they do it?
 - If you were advising a new Christian how to hear God, what advice would you give?

- Verses 11-14: when Samuel does hear the word of the Lord it is pretty heavy stuff! In the context of the whole book this is a critical moment I the ‘handover of power’ from the corrupt old religious dynasty of Eli and Sons to the new revival head by Samuel himself.
 - As Samuel reflected on these words later in his life, what effect might they have had on his ministry as a mature man?

- Verses 15-21: Much as a little later in the story David was anointed King before his predecessor Saul had died, Samuel is anointed as Priest/Prophet before Eli and sons have died.
 - You can understand Samuel’s reluctance to share the word from the Lord with Eli (verse 15). Have there been times when you have had to share something hard with people? What is the best way to share hard news?

In summary what are the main things each person is taking from tonight’s discussion?