

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 4, 2018

This Week's Focus: The significance of God's word when it is withheld, spoken, and when God calls.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **Hebrews 1:1-2**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Read 1 Samuel 3:1-3. Why was the word of the LORD rare in Israel? Reference Amos 8:11-12. What does this indicate about Israel's spiritual condition at this time in history? Discuss how God's word continues to be central to God's people today. Reference Deuteronomy 8:3.
- Share some of the symptoms of spiritual dryness that you experience as a result of neglecting God's word. Identify the obstacles that keep you from regularly engaging with God's word. How can we read Scripture in a way that invites God's life-giving transformation?
- Besides describing his physical condition, what else does Eli's dimming eyesight symbolize? How does the description of the lamp of God in verse 3 symbolize hope for the people of Israel?
- Why didn't Samuel recognize the voice of God? How did he respond once he knew God was calling him? Do you remember when you first surrendered to God's call to repent of sin and believe in Jesus? What is the on-going call to all those who have been adopted into the family of God (the Church)?
- What does God's message to Eli teach us about the nature of God, specifically his view of sin? What can we learn from Eli's response? Share a time in your life that you learned to rely on God and trust in his sovereign plan.
- Who is the greater prophet than Samuel who has fully revealed God to the world? Reference Hebrews 1:1-2, John 1:14-17. Discuss how Jesus experienced the just judgement of God for us so that we can be brought into relationship with God.