

Read 1 Samuel 3:11-18. How do you think Samuel would have felt about the message God gave him?

What's your assessment of Eli's response to God's message through Samuel?

Is God's word ever 'bad news'?

Read 1 Samuel 3:19 - 4:1. God is no longer silent. He raises up a prophet through whom he speaks, letting 'none of Samuel's words fall to the ground'.

Finish in prayer, thanking God for his faithfulness in continuing to speak to his people, revealing his loving purposes, opening the way to restore and bless them - as he will do through King David, and ultimately through Jesus.



After God's Own Heart -DAVID-

Growth Group Study Guide
Week 2

14 May 2023

"When God Speaks"

1 Samuel 3: 1-21

Series Overview:

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

Start by sharing with the group some of the things you (at least sometimes) take for granted.

Do you think we ever take God's word for granted?

Today we continue the story of Samuel, the prophet who goes on to anoint first Saul and then eventually King David.

In chapter 1 we learnt of the birth and dedication of Samuel to the Lord. Chapter 2 gives us a window into the depth of the corruption and crisis in Israel at this time, and in particular how far the priesthood had fallen under Eli, whose sons were treating the LORD's offering with contempt. Yet in the midst of it all, there is Samuel...

Read 1 Samuel 3:1. What is the significance, do you think, that 'the word of the LORD was rare'?

[Hint: Read the words of the prophet Amos, in Amos 8:11-12, directed at Israel some 2-300 years later.]

Read Psalm 19:7-10; and then **Psalm 119:105** (actually all of Psalm 119!). What do these psalms tell us about the word of the LORD?

What difference does 'the word of the LORD' make to us today?

Read Hebrews 1:1-3. What do these verses tell us about how God speaks to us today?

Read 1 Samuel 3:2-3. What contrasts can you see in this scene?

Read 1 Samuel 3:4-10. What does this story tell us about:

a) **Samuel**

b) **Eli**

c) **God**

Share your reflections around things that could stop us hearing God speak?