

AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 8/10/25 "Hearing God's Call"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Opening Prayer: "Gracious and Holy God, as we gather to study your Word, we ask for open hearts and minds. Help us to hear your voice as Samuel did and to respond with readiness and obedience. Guide our discussions and reflections today, that we may grow closer to you and understand your will for our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What was the spiritual state of Israel during the time of Samuel's call, and how does this context help us understand the significance of God speaking to Samuel?
2. Who was Eli, and what role did he play in Samuel's life and the religious life of Israel?

Key Themes: (Hearing God's Call)

3. How does the story of Samuel illustrate the theme of God working through the unlikely and the humble?
4. What does Samuel's response to God's call teach us about being ready and available to hear God's voice?

Application and Action:

5. In what ways can we position ourselves to hear God's voice in our daily lives, like how Samuel was attentive to God's call?
6. How can we support and encourage others, especially the younger generation, to recognize and respond to God's call?
7. What are some practical steps you can take this week to be more attentive to God's voice in your life?
8. How can you be a part of a community that helps discern God's will and supports each other in carrying out difficult tasks?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a time when you felt God was calling you to do something unexpected or challenging. How did you respond, and what was the outcome?
2. Discuss how the concept of a "redemption cycle" rather than a "sin cycle" can change our perspective on our relationship with God.

Closing Prayer:

“God of redemption, thank you for speaking to us through your Word and through the story of Samuel. Help us to be attentive to your voice and courageous in our response. May we be instruments of your love and grace in the world, working together as a community to fulfill your purposes. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.”

Journal Prompt: Reflect on a time when you felt unqualified or unlikely to be used by God. How did you see God work through you despite your perceived limitations? Write a prayer asking God to help you be open to His call, no matter how unexpected it may be.

