

# God Speaks Judgment and Calls Samuel

When corruption and darkness seem to be in control, we may find it hard to hear and see God. Together, we can learn where to look for God and discover hope even when life's situations seem hopelessly unjust and bleak, as in the stories of Israel, the high priest Eli, Eli's corrupt sons, and Samuel.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you think you would recognize God's voice if he audibly spoke to you? Why or why not?
- When have you witnessed someone in a leadership position take advantage of their position or authority? What happened? How did it affect their community?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [God Speaks Judgment and Calls Samuel](#)

**READ** [1 Samuel 2:12-3:21](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- Can you think of other examples where you've seen glimpses of hope in stark contrast to evil or corruption, in your own life, in history, or in the Bible?
- In segment 2, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discussed how the word of the Lord was rare and even the high priest Eli was slow to recognize that God was speaking. Do you think God's voice is rare today? Why or why not? What habits do you think help a person recognize God's voice more easily?
- While reflecting in segment 3 on what God does with Samuel, the answer to a barren woman's prayer, and Paul's words in [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#), Darrell said, "It is beautiful how God will take a small thing that seems obscure and insignificant and turn it on its head and...bring glory out and bless many people." What other examples of this pattern can you identify in the Bible?
- Scott and Darrell identified three takeaways from their study of [1 Samuel 2:12-3:21](#): 1) never count God out, 2) don't limit God in your mind, and 3) don't get too distracted by the people who seem large and in charge, even while being corrupt and terrible people who do awful things. Which of these takeaways challenges you the most? What is one thing you can do to work on growth in that area and deepen your trust in God?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Leviticus 1-7](#), [Numbers 18](#), [Luke 2:22-52](#), [Isaiah 55](#), [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#), [John 1:1-5](#)

## CONCLUSION

As Darrell closed the episode, he paraphrased [John 1:5](#) and said, “Just as it was in Samuel’s early years as a child...there is a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not yet put it out.” What do you think is the darkness now, in today’s world, and where do you see glimpses of hope and light like Samuel was during the corrupt leadership of Eli’s sons? Close your time of reflection by thanking God for continuing to provide light and hope in times of darkness, and that he will cultivate in you a heart that recognizes his voice.

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