

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 29

Rare Word

Our Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Ice Breaker

At 12 years-old what did you want to be when you grew up?

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. According to Jewish Tradition Samuel was 12 years old at the time of his calling. Read Luke 2:40-52. What parallels do you see?
2. "Gee, thanks God!" Samuel's calling came with some pretty tough responsibilities. What does scripture tell Samuel had to do as part of his calling?

Read 1 Samuel 2:12, 2:22, 2:35-36

Read 1 Samuel 15: 17-28

3. Read Hebrews 12:32-34. How is Samuel regarded in the New Testament story of Salvation history?

Media Mix - (The birth of Samuel)

Samuel's birth itself was a miracle. What role did Eli play?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dNWtt6Ljc>

Bringing It Home

1. What do you remember about your confirmation teacher?
 - How many were confirmed in your “class?”
 - How many became devoted followers of Christ?
2. What is a vocation?
3. What is your vocation? How is your faith reflected in your vocation?
4. Refer back to “Digging Deeper” question #2. Tell about a difficult incident or responsibility you have had while living out your vocation (at work, at church, at home or in the community).
5. “The Word of the Lord was rare in those days and there was no frequent vision.” Each group participant should privately choose the **3 most important factors** that contributes to vision being rare today. Then, share your choices with the group.
 - ___ We are entertaining ourselves to death
 - ___ We are sports absorbed
 - ___ We shop ‘til we drop in our consumer obsessed culture
 - ___ We are busy being angry and fighting in our adversarial culture
 - ___ We are distracted and tech-possessed (Phone--TV--Internet)
 - ___ We are turned off by what represents the church today
 - ___ Like Eli’s sons we are gluttonous and sex obsessed
 - ___ Suggest another factor not listed here

Prayer Time (Prayer concerns - revisited)

- Take out the index cards from last week.
- Update each other on your prayer concerns.
- Go around the group and each person say a short prayer for the person on your right. It is okay to pray silently if you are not comfortable speaking out loud.

Housekeeping

Thank your host and those who provide refreshments. Have you considered meeting in one of your group members homes at least once this cycle?