

#### PREPARING TO HEAR FROM GOD

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**Now the boy** Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the Lord was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

—1 Samuel 3:1

Samuel was a child.

Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.

—1 Samuel 3:7

"Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

-Luke 18:16

- 1. Jesus welcomes *children*.
- 2. Jesus makes a *promise* to children.

The manifestation of the power, presence, and voice of  $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$  is available to you now!

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

—1 Samuel 3:1

Samuel was a worshiper.

Undistracted worship develops intimacy with God.

Things we are held captive by:

- Pharaoh of religious boundaries.
- Pharaoh of the <u>need</u> to <u>please</u>.
- Pharaoh of *comparison*.
- Pharaoh of past experiences.
- Pharaoh of sin.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

—1 Samuel 3:1

Samuel was set apart.

set apart =  $\underline{sanctified}$  and  $\underline{holy}$ 

Sin provokes God to withhold His word.

Three stages of sanctification.

- 1. Positional sanctification
- 2. <u>Lifestyle</u> sanctification
- 3. <u>Ultimate</u> sanctification
- 1. Remember the **Promises**

The Promise of *Fellowship* 

The Promise of *Relationship* 

2. Remove the <u>Baggage</u>

## Viewer Guide

Session 4

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and **Samuel was lying down** in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was.

—1 Samuel 3:3

Samuel was still.

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."

—John 6:10

Lord, why?

A special purpose

Lord, where?

A special place

Lord, how?

A special power

# Viewer Guide

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was.

—1 Samuel 3:3

Samuel got as close as he could to the  $\underline{manifest}$ 

presence of God.

As [Jesus] was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road, begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this might be. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

—Luke 18:35-37

- 1. The manifest presence of God is available to you.
- 2. The manifest presence of God is <u>attainable</u> for you.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied.

—Luke 6:21

Ask your friends what you're hungry for.

Ask yourself, What keeps me awake at night?

3. The manifest presence of God is  $\underline{vital}$  to us.

His presence alone is life giving.

The LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Thy servant is listening."
—Samuel 3:10

Samuel was a servant.

Submission is the heart of servanthood.

He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

—John 13:5

To be a true servant of  $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$  you have to be willing to:

- leave your own <u>comfort</u>
   and <u>satisfaction</u> behind
- remove the *hindrances*
- take up your <u>towel</u>

Being a servant is not about your *talk*, it's about your *walk*.