



Mega Transitions - *How to Hear the Lord Speak*

Message to Conversation Guide

1 Sam 3:1-21

1 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One-night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So, he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (see also **1 Samuel 3:11-21**)

Discussion Questions

1. Hearing the voice of the Lord is often considered to be strange and infrequent by many people. However, hearing Jesus speak to us should be normal not abnormal. How does the verse below underscore this principle? What insights does this verse reveal about hearing the Lord speak?

John 10:27

27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* NIV

2. The word of the Lord was rare in the days of Eli the priest. What was most probably behind the rarity of God's word in Eli's day?

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. **1 Samuel 3:1**

3. Discuss this principle:

The Lord rarely speaks to people that do not have an obedient heart that delights to do his will.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." **1 Samuel 3:10**

4. Anxious to obey often translates into frequency of God's speaking to us. Discuss the psalms below that highlight a readiness to obey the Lord.

Ps 32:8-9

8 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

9 *Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.*

Ps 40:8

8 *I desire to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.* NIV

5. Discuss how obeying the voice of the Lord can make life an exciting adventure. Discuss the video entitled "*shoulder tap*" that was a part of the message.
6. The initiation of us hearing the Lord begins when the Lord speaks to us about receiving him as our Lord and savior. God's voice is the spiritual dynamic that brings us to experience salvation.

1 Sam 3:7

7 *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.* NIV

7. What is a particular time that you feel like the Lord has spoken to you in a very clear way?

Concluding Thought:

"Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart." Mother Teresa