

**The Story: Chapter 10**  
**Standing Tall, Falling Hard**

Pastor Kevin Donoho  
June 18, 2023

**MAIN SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3:1-20**

**DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX**  
**CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED**  
**INTO TWO SEGMENTS:**

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE  
QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE  
LEADER.**
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX  
QUESTIONS:**

**Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

**Thought #1: God can speak in the  
darkest of times!**

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-3

*“The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 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.”*

Pastor Kevin reminded us of the context of this passage. This was during a time when hearing from the Lord was hard. However, just as in verse 3, we see that the lamp of God had not gone out; there was still hope.

In what areas of your life are you struggling to hear from God? Do you notice a specific situation or circumstance where you feel your faith is fading? Where do you feel that

your vision of what God is doing is weak or clouded?

Read the beginning of 1 Samuel 3:3 again

*“The lamp of God had not yet gone out...”*

In the darkest times, we can remember that there is still hope. There is still light, and even if it is small, we must look for it.

Where do you see hope sparking in your life? Are there glimmers of God moving in your current circumstances? How do you see His light shining through? Where have you seen Him show up in the past after a time of silence or darkness? Encourage one another with these stories and testimonies.

**Thought #2: The Lord calls Samuel...and  
you!**

Read 1 Samuel 3:4-10

*“Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” 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. 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.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 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. 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. <sup>1</sup> The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times,*

*“Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”*

In a time when God had been quiet, He now was speaking very clearly. However, it was not in the way we might have expected. It would be easy to assume that God would choose to speak to Eli or anyone else. But God chose Samuel.

How have you experienced God speaking in an unexpected or unforeseen way? Was it easy to recognize it was the Lord at the time? How did you respond?

Pastor Kevin reminded us that Samuel was a 12-year-old boy in this story. God not only spoke in an unexpected way but to an unexpected person. Pastor Kevin also reminded us that Samuel’s life had been dedicated to the Lord by his mother.

To do this, it meant she was entrusting her child to the Lord. Believing that He knows best. Recognizing that for as much as she loved Samuel, it was only a fraction of how much God loved him.

Whether it is a child or another person/ situation that is close to your heart, have there been times you have had to dedicate them to the Lord? Choosing to trust this highly treasured and valued thing to Him? Has there been a time, either past or present, when you have struggled to do this? What obstacles did you face that made this difficult?

### **Thought #3: When are invited to partner with the Lord!**

Whether it is in parenting or other life circumstances there are things to remember:

#### **1. We do our part!**

Colossians 4:3-4 says *“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may **proclaim** the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may **proclaim** it clearly, as I should.”*

This passage reminds us that we are not passive observers but rather active participants in this journey with the Lord! Is there an area of your life where you need to engage and be an active participant in partnering with the Lord?

#### **2. We trust God to do His part!**

1 Samuel 1:27-28 says *“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshipped the Lord there.”*

This passage reminds us that God is the giver of good and perfect gifts and that we can trust Him with them. Is there an area of your life that you need to hand back to God? An area you need to trust that He knows best and will help you through?

#### **3. We trust God to work beyond us!**

Hannah entrusted Samuel to the Lord and God used Eli to work in big ways in Samuel’s life.

We are reminded through this that God uses others in our circumstances. Is there an area of your life that you need to invite others into accountability or community? An area you have been trying to navigate alone but you realize you need the support of others?

#### **4. We choose to respond like this 12-year-old boy!**

1 Samuel 3:10 says *“The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times,*

