

The Call of Samuel

What are we called to do?
¿Para qué estamos llamados?

1. We are called to _____ the LORD.
Estamos llamados a _____ al SEÑOR.

1 Samuel 3:7

1 Samuel 3:21

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 (2 Tesalonicenses 2:13-14)

2. We are called to _____ God's word.
Estamos llamados a _____ la palabra de Dios.

1 Samuel 3:10

1 Samuel 3:12-13

James 1:22-25 (Santiago 1:22-25)

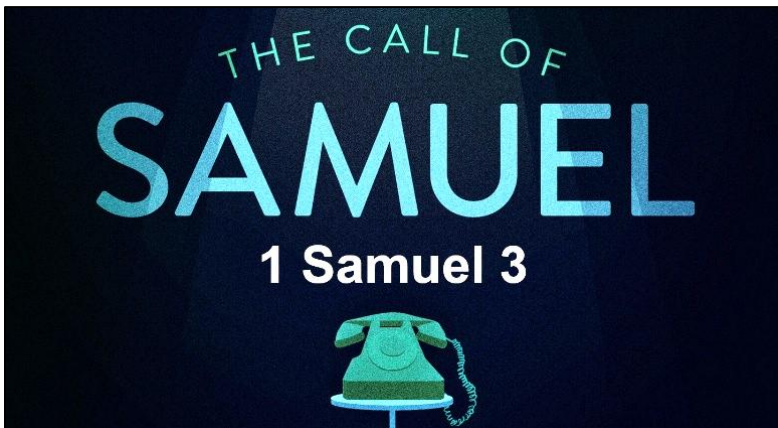
3. We are called to _____ God's word.
Estamos llamados a _____ la palabra de Dios.

1 Samuel 3:15

1 Samuel 3:17-18

Acts 20:20-21 (Hechos 20:20-21)

Matthew 28:18-20 (Mateo 28:18-20)



Discussion Questions and Notes

Week 4: August 30 – September 6

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3

While most Christians know that God has a purpose for their lives, many don't know what that purpose is. How can we know what God is calling us to do? Everyone has a unique calling based on who they are, their unique gifts, abilities, personality, and experiences. However, we are all called to fulfill the same general purposes that God has for all people. Before we can discover our unique purpose in life, we must understand the general purposes that God has for all people. The calling of Samuel is a good example of this. Before his call to be a prophet in 1 Samuel 3, we see Samuel worshipping the Lord (2:11), serving as a priest (2:18), and growing in favor with God and men (2:26). Even as a young boy, Samuel was already serving in various ministries that helped him to discover and develop his potential. As we look at the call of Samuel, we see several practical principles that will help us to understand the calling God has for us.

Read 1 Samuel 3

1. What did Samuel do as a boy? (3:1)
2. What did the author say about the word of the Lord in those days? (3:1)

V. Philips Long notes,

While the comment that there were not many visions might seem to suggest that there were few divine 'appearances,' the Hebrew term *hāzôn* often has more to do with the revelatory word and thus with an auditory experience. Implicit in this lack of 'visions' is divine displeasure (see, e.g., 14:37; Ps. 74:9; Lam. 2:9; Amos 8:11–12). But there is also hope, for the boy Samuel is ministering before the Lord. (Long, 63)

3. How is Eli described in verse 2?
4. Where was Samuel lying down in verse 3?

5. What did Samuel assume about the voice he heard calling him? (3:4-6)

Bill Arnold comments,

Samuel is willing to serve, but he is confused about the identity of the one calling him. The single Hebrew word translated “Here I am” (*hinneni*, 3:4) can be a common greeting, but it is often a more subtle indication that a servant hears and obeys. It is especially significant when someone hears and obeys the divine call (Gen. 22:1, 11; Ex. 3:4; Isa. 6:8). (Arnold, 81-82)

6. In what way did Samuel not yet know the LORD? (3:7)

James Smith writes,

The sacred historian offers two explanations. First, Samuel did not yet know the Lord in a personal way. This language is not used in the same way as in 2:12 where Eli's sons did not know the Lord. Samuel certainly knew and worshiped the God of Israel prior to this night... Second, the lad had never before heard a word from God. Perhaps this clause explains the sense in which Samuel did not know the Lord. Revelation was a new experience for him. (Smith, 76)

7. What did Eli tell Samuel to do after the third time he heard a voice calling him? (3:8-9)

8. How was all Israel going to react to what God going to do? (3:11)

9. Why was God planning to judge Eli and his family? (3:12-14)

10. Why was Samuel reluctant to tell Eli about the vision? (3:15)

11. How did Eli convince Samuel to tell him everything God said? (3:17)

12. What was Eli's reaction to the prophecy Samuel heard? (3:18)

13. What did God continue to do in Samuel's life? (3:19-21)

14. How do the events in this chapter give us a preview of the coming Messiah?

Smith observes,

Samuel was called by the providence of God to be the founder of the prophetic institution, which, as time marched on, would stand on equal footing with the priestly and royal offices in the preparation for the coming of the one who would be Prophet, Priest and King. (Smith, 73)

15. Why do you think the word of the LORD was rare at this time in the history of Israel?

16. Why do you think God called Samuel to deliver a message of judgment to Eli?

17. Why are many Christians afraid to tell people about God's judgment?

18. What was good or bad about Eli's reaction to God's message of judgment?

19. What is something that God has called you to do?

20. How can you get to know God better?

Sources cited:

Arnold, Bill. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 and 2 Samuel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2003.

Long, V. Philips. *1 and 2 Samuel*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.

Smith, James. *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000.