

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Listening to God - Part 2

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
October 18, 2026



1 Samuel 3:1-21 (NLT) Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon. ² One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. ⁴ Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" ⁵ He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. ⁶ Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed." ⁷ Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. ⁸ So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. ⁹ So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. ¹⁰ And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." ¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. ¹² I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. ¹³ I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. ¹⁴ So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings." ¹⁵ Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him. ¹⁶ But Eli called out to him, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," Samuel replied. ¹⁷ "What did the Lord say to you? Tell me everything. And may God strike you and even kill you if you hide anything from me!" ¹⁸ So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the Lord's will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best." ¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable. ²⁰ And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.

What can we learn from this story about Listening to God?

Big Idea: As we listen & obey God, we grow to become more like Jesus.

1) Learn to Recognize God's Voice.

4 Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!"

- **Am I creating space in my life to hear God, or am I allowing the noise & busyness of life to drown Him out?**

2) Listen & Respond Obediently to God's Voice.

¹⁰ And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

- **Listening requires a willingness to hear the truth...Even when it challenges us or calls us to do something difficult.**

Psalms 66:18 (NIV) "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened..."

3) Grow as you Respond to God's Voice.

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- **Listening to God starts with a Tender Heart...**

Ezekiel 36:25-26

Hebrews 1:1-3

Big Idea: As we listen & obey God, we grow to become more like Jesus.

Application: Listening to God through Lectio Divina (divine reading).

- **Read: Listen to God's Word.**
- **Reflect: What stands out?**
- **Respond: What is my next step?**
- **Rest: Enjoy God's loving presence.**

What would it look like this week to begin each day with a simple prayer? "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.**
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Listening to God - Part 2
#4 of 9 - October 18, 2026**

- 1) What did you find interesting or helpful about this message on "Listening to God"?
- 2) Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21. What strikes you about this story? What do we learn about "listening to God" from God's encounter with Samuel?
- 3) Why is a "tender heart" necessary to hear and respond to God? How does Ezekiel 36:25-26 and Hebrews 1:1-3 encourage you in this regard?
- 4) **If you have yet to Watch Session 3 - Listening to God (Practicing The Way - Prayer Course) take time to do so.**
<https://launch.practictheway.org/resources/prayer>
- 5) Have you ever tried to listen for God's voice before? What has been your experience with Listening Prayer, Lectio Divina, or the Prayer of Examen?

6) Take time as an Impact Community to Listen to God through Lectio Divina (divine reading). Choose a passage to use.

Isaiah 43:1-3, Matthew 11:28-30, Philippians 4:4-9

- Read: Listen to God's Word.
- Reflect: What stands out?
- Respond: What is my next step?
- Rest: Enjoy God's loving presence.

7) Share your experience with your group.

8) What would it look like this week to begin each day with a simple prayer? "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



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