

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Plot Twist

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Importance of Leadership

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Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NIV

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-3:11

- Great leaders in Scripture – Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Elisha, and Samuel – each get their start as people who serve others. Have you ever wanted to be viewed as a leader within your profession, social group, or other circles of influence? How do the lives of leaders in Scripture model what the road to leadership looks like? What application can you make to your life?
- Hophni and Phinehas leaned into evil instead of pursuing God. What corrupting influences are chasing after your heart? How can you guard yourself against them?
- What do we learn about the importance of leadership from this story? Eli is the leader of his sons and his sons are leaders in Israel. What is going to happen to Eli’s family line because of his unwillingness to discipline his sons’ behavior? What happens to the people of Israel when there are corrupt leaders vs. godly leaders? Do you believe you are a leader and have influence? What inferences can we make about the responsibility and consequences of not leading well?
- Samuel is living amongst a wicked leadership. Do you live or work in an environment that does not honor God? What challenges do you experience because of this? How can you respect those in leadership above you but not be like them? What strategies can be used to not conform to the likeness of those around you? What step can you take this week to help them come to know Christ?



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- Eli warns his wayward sons and rebukes them for their behavior. But this was not sufficient for the Lord. What should Eli have done (3:13)? What would you have done if you were Eli? Parents: what are some tactics you have used to move your child from destructive, unhealthy behaviors to ones that honor the Lord?
- Eli cared more about his sons' positions than exaltation of and obedience to God. Is there anything more important to you than God (people, positions, possessions, power, or prestige)? How can understanding our heart's disposition toward these things help us to take steps back toward God?
- Reflect on the significance of the phrase "the word of the Lord was rare" during the time of Samuel. In what ways can you experience a scarcity of God's Word or a lack of spiritual discernment in your life? How can you cultivate a greater hunger for God's Word and a deeper relationship with Him?
- Samuel was just a young boy when he heard God's voice. Do you hear the Lord speak to you, either audibly or in your heart? If not, why do you think that is? If you do hear Him, how obedient are you to what He has shared? Samuel was obedient to God's message, and it brought about significant change in Israel. What lessons can we draw from this about the power of obedience in our own lives and its impact on the world around us?
- Samuel's response to God's voice was, "Speak, for your servant is listening." How can we cultivate a posture of listening to God's voice in our busy lives? What practices or habits can help us hear from God?



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