

Soap Box

1 Samuel 3

Verses 1-5a

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.

There were not many visions or prophetic words because of the sin in the hearts of men. 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."

Eli learned servanthood and submission serving under Eli

This is a great foundation for learning how to respond to our Heavenly Father!!

Verses 5b-7

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.

Samuel had grown up in the tabernacle - he was as "biblically literate"

-He knew OF the Lord, but didn't yet know Him in a personal way

Verses 8-11a

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."

11 And the Lord said to Samuel:

When Samuel was being called by God, Eli didn't give his opinion

- He pointed Samuel back to God

- He taught Samuel how to listen!!

One of the greatest things we can do for the next generation

- teach them to listen to God's voice

All believers need to discover their own relationship with Christ!!

I encourage you to give your child a Biblical foundation

- Find a way to make Scripture a priority in the home

The NextGen staff here at The Water's loves investing into kids

- The primary spiritual role model in their life.... parents/ guardians!

We have groups that meet regularly with a heart to Grow in the Word and closer to Christ

- Monday nights - Guys from around the area gather here to grow together

- Wednesday mornings, 6am - Guys meet locally to study the Word together

- Mondays and Tuesdays - Ladies meet together for Sisterhood

- Thursday nights - Young Adults are pressing in and growing together

There is a hunger for God across the church!!!!

Maybe you are here and you have a desire to dive deeper..... get plugged in!!
-Life is just more fun when we grow and learn together

Maybe you are here and you have a desire to help others grow.....get plugged in!!
-Start investing into those who are newer in their faith

Eli knew God was speaking to Samuel because he had heard from God himself
Some of you have a thriving prayer and devotional life
-There is no greater joy than helping someone else hear God's voice in their life
-Point them to Biblical truth!

John writes in his third book:

3 John 1:4

I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth.

My prayer is that God would stir your heart to dive into His Word more

Pour into others and help them discover God's truth

As Eli directed Samuel....it's not my words that matter.... but God's!!

Ask Him to give you some next steps

What can you do in your family?

What can you do to take that next step to grow yourself?

How can you reach out and invest in a specific person?

Write it down... share it with a friend or spouse... take the next step!