

ICEBREAKER

Who do you enjoy listening to and for what pleasure or purpose do you listen to he/she/them?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Samuel 3**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As a reminder from our previous sessions . . .

Judges 21:25 states, *"all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."* Compare this with Jesus' call we discussed last week where He says, *"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me."* — Luke 9:23. One of these ways to live seeks to deny God and please self and the other first seeks to deny self and please God.

• Read Amos 8:11-12

"The time is surely coming," says the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it."

If our government suddenly banned the Bible, making illegal to own the Bible, and read the Bible... if they came and seized every copy of the Bible in your possession, to what degree would your life be affected?

- God wants to communicate with us. He wants to give us direction. He wants to help us. He wants to correct us so we are not lost in wrong areas doing wrong things. Read Isaiah 30:21, *"Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left."*

Discuss a situation that you heard the voice of God directing you to go to the "left or the right". What was the final outcome of your decision to listen and obey His direction?

- No matter how many setbacks we encounter where we now stand we must never waiver in our belief that God will continue His work in us until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. We must believe God and trust God.

Read: Romans 10:17

Read: Galatians 3:2

Read: Colossians 3:16

Discuss how these scriptures are related to each other and what steps can we take to put these verses into practice for our spiritual growth.

- In 1 Samuel 3, we read of three different types / descriptions of darkness.

1) The darkness of God's light not being shown - *"messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon."*

2) Eli's eyesight is failing and he is going blind. His physical condition was a reflection of the spiritual reality. He could not see the light of day, nor could he see the word of the Lord. His darkness was deep.

3) The light of the lamp in 3:3 that is close, but has not yet, gone out. At one level, this is simply reference to the time of day. But the writer clearly intends it also to be symbolic. The light it casts is dim. But it is not yet extinguished. There is still a glimmer of hope.

Have you ever been in a moment of time that you felt you were in the dark - spiritual speaking? At some point the light broke through and your situation was revealed to you - how did you respond to God?

- Read Philippians 1:6

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

What area in your life do you know that God desires to continue to work in so that you shine brightly?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What is Jesus saying? Where is He asking you to trust Him? Where is He encouraging you these days? Where are you feeling His love in your life? What areas in your lifestyle and a habits is He speaking to you about changing?

What am I doing in RESPONSE?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

If you are disoriented to how God speaks, you will not understand when He is giving you a new revelation about what He is doing. If you want to know God's will, take time to cultivate your relationship with Jesus and learn to identify His voice. He is more than willing to show you the way. Be ready to say, *"God here I am. I am ready to follow in obedience. I am listening."*

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS