

4.6 God Calls Samuel

Unit 2: God Calls Us

1 Samuel 3:1-21

10/8 & 10/12

Unit Verse: “But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.”

The Point & Call Back:
GOD > Calls US!

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

This unit we will begin several “call” stories – stories of how God invites individuals to become leaders-hearing first about Israel’s great prophet, Samuel. In the weeks to come, we will hear the stories of David, Solomon, and Elijah.

STORY SUMMARY: God Calls Samuel

Samuel, the son of Hannah, lived in the tabernacle from a very early age and is called by God when he is only a boy. Even though Samuel does not recognize God’s voice at first, we can understand that Samuel has been nurtured in God’s grace his whole life. The image of the lamp of God shining on a sleeping Samuel reminds us that God’s love has shined on Samuel from before he was even aware of it, giving him reassurance and strength. When God calls Samuel, Samuel seeks direction and counsel from the older, wiser Eli to understand what is happening. With Eli’s help, Samuel learns to recognize God’s voice. When Eli asks what God told Samuel, Samuel tells him the truth, even though it is a judgment against Eli. It is often the prophet’s job to speak the truth that others might not want to hear, and Samuel is willing to do that. The story of Samuel helps us to understand that there is no age limit on God’s call. God sends all of us into the world to share God’s story and to work in God’s name. The community of God is built when we work together, young and old, to bear witness to God’s story.

THE POINT: God blesses and equips us to do great things.

The story of the call of Samuel is remarkable because Samuel is only a child, so young that he is not even sure whose voice he hears. It is I Eli who sets him on the right path so that he can truly understand God’s plan for his life. This is an important story for all of us, but particularly for those young in faith. God calls and equips all of us, sometimes through the wisdom of our elders, and sometimes through the wisdom of those younger than us.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Ancient History

We all have stories of personal and family history that have shaped who we are today. In the same way, the stories in the Bible have shaped countless people of faith and help us understand who God is and how we fit into God’s story. Within the “History Books” of the OT (Joshua through Esther), the writers told the story of Israel and God. At that time, the concern was less about precise facts and more about how the Israelites can understand themselves and the ups and downs of God’s relationship with them.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Service

When God calls, we respond. Often, this response may take the form of service to our siblings in Christ. We serve others because of God's call, which sends us from the doors of the church into the world around us.

Hope Youth Volunteers,

Thank you for answering the call to serving our youth at Hope. Isn't it amazing how God has equipped you uniquely for your role in Hope Youth? Being called and used by God is such a wonderful privilege.

When we get to serve God we build a community of believers and we strengthen our own faith. There is no age limit to serving God!

Blessings,

The Youth Team!