APPLICATION

- Have you encountered God? Is your life heading in a new direction because of who He is in your life? How has your life changed since you encountered Him?
- How can you hear from God on a regular basis? What posture should you maintain when He speaks to you?
- Like Eli, how can you help someone hear God's call? Who can you invest in and disciple?
- What situation are you facing wherein you know God is asking you to speak up or stand up for what's right? What do you need to do and how will you do it?

PRAYER

- Thank God for how He speaks to us, primarily through His Word. Pray that you will always treasure and obey His Word.
- Ask God that you would know Him and have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. Commit to obey what He says and ask Him for divine courage to do so.
- Pray that you will help lead others to God and you would be faithful to the Lord until the very end.

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Tomorrow

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Do you think you're a good listener? Why or why not?
- Recall a time when you had to do something but you were scared to do it. What happened?
- Who is one person you have a good relationship with? What's one thing you appreciate about this person?

WORD *[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. . . . [4]Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."* **1 SAMUEL 3:1,4**

Samuel was a prophet who spoke God's word to His people and helped them walk with Him. However, before Samuel became a prophet, he first knew God at a young age. In the same way, we cannot become who God wants us to be if we don't first know Him. In this lesson, we will look at three divine elements in Samuel's story.

1 Divine Voice

And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle." **1 SAMUEL 3:11**

Previously, Samuel had not known the Lord (1 Samuel 3:7), so this was the first time Samuel heard Him. When Samuel heard God three times, Eli helped him respond properly. Samuel then came to know God. We, too, can hear God's voice as He speaks to us through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and people. How did Samuel respond when God called him? Why is this an appropriate response?

2 Divine Encounter

And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle." **1 SAMUEL 3:11**

When Samuel heard God and responded, he encountered God in a unique way. Knowing about God and even ministering to Him, as Samuel did and as some do, is not enough. A personal, intimate relationship with God is what changes us. After Samuel encountered Him, God continued to reveal Himself to Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:19-21). How did you first encounter God? How did this encounter change you?

3 Divine Courage

[15]Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision . . . [18]So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes." **1 SAMUEL 3:15,18**

God was about to judge Eli and his sons, and Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about this message. But Samuel boldly and courageously spoke and told Eli what God had said—not in rebellion or pride, but in obedience to God. Like Samuel, we can have divine courage to stand up for what is right and obey the Lord. We can speak God's Word with boldness. In what area has God given you divine courage? Recall a time when you had to stand up for what's right. What happened?