

INVESTING IN OTHERS

Eli and Samuel // 1 Samuel 2:22-26; 3:7-10,15-18

THE POINT

Help others discern the voice of God.

When Samuel heard God speaking, he thought it was Eli calling for him three separate times. Eli finally understood what was happening and instructed Samuel to indicate that he was listening if the Lord should speak again. God spoke to His people, and He continues to speak to us today. He has spoken through the life of Jesus. He speaks through the Holy Spirit. And God's written Word is clearly revealing to us the things He has to say. We are called to know God, which requires us to invite Him to speak into our lives. And we are called to help others hear what God might have to say to them.

› Key Question

In what ways do you most clearly hear God speaking into your life?

God has the right to speak in any way He chooses—He's spoken through dreams, visions, prophetic messages, miracles, and more. Romans 1:20 teaches that God's existence, and His power, are made known through creation. Yet this general revelation is not enough to allow for us to have a relationship with God. God has spoken most clearly and powerfully through the person of Jesus (Heb. 1:1-3), and He continues to speak through His Word and through the Holy Spirit today. Additionally, God can speak through the wise counsel of godly people, so long as their message aligns with Scripture.

› Keep in Mind

It's not uncommon for people to say, "God told me..." As an example, a guy might tell a girl he likes, "God told me that you're the one for me." God can certainly speak into people's lives. However, we must be very careful with these kinds of ideas, because people often mistake impressions or emotions for the voice of God. If we ever hear this kind of language from someone else, it's necessary that we ask God if He's saying the same thing to us. And if we're ever tempted to say things like, "God told me," especially as it relates to someone else, we'd better make sure the message is scriptural and not just an opinion or impression.

› Application

How would you describe the connection between hearing from God and obedience?

› The Win

When God speaks, it's not just that we would have more information in our minds. It's always meant to affect who we are—our desires, thoughts, emotions, and actions. True faith involves growing in knowledge and wisdom and letting these things drive the ways we live. A true relationship with God, which involves our sharing of ourselves and listening to Him, is built on a love that overflows into a life of service. When we hear God speak, we live by it.

STUDENTS

BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.