

Open It

What childhood prayers do you remember praying? What do you find refreshing about a child exercising faith by praying to God?

Consider It

What evidence do we see in the Bible text that the boy Samuel did not yet know the LORD personally (1 Samuel 3:1-7, 10)?

How did Eli teach Samuel to pray (3:8-9)?

How did God answer Samuel's prayer (3:11-14)?

What dilemma did Samuel face when the LORD answered His prayer (3:15-17)?

What did obedience require of Samuel?

How did Eli teach Samuel to follow the LORD (3:17-18)?

How does Samuel serve as an example of Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:46-49?

How would you describe Samuel's relationship with the LORD at the end of this chapter (3:19-21)?

When is the prayer "Speak, LORD your servant is listening" a dangerous prayer to pray?

Live It

Commit to praying, "Speak Lord, Your Servant is listening" before reading the Bible 10 minutes a day for the next 40 days.

Answer these two questions after reading God's word. First, what is God saying to you? And then, what does obedience require of you?

Family Activity

Watch "Showing Respect to God through Prayer" on Mr. Phil TV and then, read 1 Samuel 3 and discuss how Samuel showed respect for God.

Dangerous Prayers: Don't Pray It Safe

The Speak Lord Prayer

1 Samuel 3:1-21

October 17 & 18, 2020

Sermon Proposition

Don't pray it safe! Pray, "Speak, LORD, your servant is listening" for the next 40 days.

Praying, "Speak, LORD Your Servant Is Listening" Is an Act of Submission.

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."

1 Samuel 3:8-10 (NIV)

**Praying, “Speak, LORD Your Servant Is Listening”
Results in the Knowledge of God.**

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him....

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

1 Samuel 3:1-7 (NIV)

**Praying, “Speak, LORD Your Servant Is Listening”
Requires Obedience.**

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." ¹⁷ "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him.

1 Samuel 3:15-18 (NIV)

**Praying, “Speak, LORD Your Servant Is Listening”
Becomes a Way of Life.**

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

1 Samuel 3:1–21 (NIV)