

w/b 17th May 2015 - Life Application

Theme: **TEACH ME TO LISTEN 1 Samuel (Mike Gilson)**

DISCOVERY

Read 1 Samuel 2:27–3:21

Discuss the following:

- the awesome, terrible things God told the 'man of God'
- what Eli would have thought about it
- why Samuel was not able to realise it was God speaking, and have had to have Eli tell him to listen for God
- what they both would have thought when Samuel told Eli what had been said

Remind yourselves how God speaks - Vic talked about it a couple of weeks ago:

The Bible, prophecy, words of knowledge, pictures, events and situations, nature, our consciences, other people.

DISCUSSION

Why do we need to hear from God?

Jesus said though we are in the world we are not 'of it' - John 15:19.

Paul said God has transported us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, the kingdom of the Son he loves - Colossians 1:13, 14.

Jesus told his disciples that the road to destruction is wide but the road to life is narrow - Matthew 7:13, 14.

The thing is - we are also called to witness to people and to have relationships with them.

So maybe we need to be able to hear from God so that we can be on the narrow road (i.e. righteous) and at the same time have close contact with people who are on the broad road, so we can rescue them. **Discuss.** Can we be on the narrow road and also on the wide road?

Do you expect God to speak to you? What do you expect to hear? What would you do if he said to do something outside your comfort zone?

The speaker said there is a difference between expectation and expectancy. **Explore this.** Ephesians 3:20 says God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine - should we limit our expectations of what he might say to us or want of us?

How do you listen and try to hear God?

The speaker on Sunday put up a list of places and ways that some people said they listen to God. Here is the list:

bus, hill overlooking the sea, cycling, reading bible, in the garden, in quiet place in the house, in a cathedral, with worship music playing, praying, weekend retreat centre, church, walking in the countryside, praise music CD in the car, on a beach, serving people, in the gym on treadmill, train, kneeling in a special place, hoovering, watching nature, praying in tongues, walking the dog, mowing the lawn, gardening, painting, in a place with lots of sky, walking round the block, when flying, prayer conferences, on a hilltop, in a bath.

Which ones do you like? How about trying some new ones out!

APPLICATION

Talk about the needs you all have to know what God's plans are for you, and what to do in situations you and others you care about are in. Then spend some time praying for each other to hear now, and be able to listen more effectively day by day. Plan to review progress when you get together again.

God bless you as you meet.