

4/12/26

We Are All Called

Called: Answering God's Invitation

1 Samuel 3:1-15

1. The story opens with a striking line: "The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread." Have you experienced seasons in your own life when God seemed silent or distant? What was that like, and what did you do during that time?
2. Samuel has been ministering in God's presence his whole life, yet the text says he "did not yet know the Lord." How is it possible to be active in the life of faith and still not yet know God personally? Have you experienced a difference between religious activity and genuine encounter with God?
3. Samuel mistakes God's voice for Eli's three times. Pastor Roger suggested that God speaks through the created order, through other people, through Scripture, through gentle nudges, convictions, and persistent thoughts. Which of these has been the most common way you've sensed God's direction in your life? Which feels least familiar?
4. Pastor Nick emphasized that no special calling is needed for us to love God and neighbor — we already know that command. Where in your daily life right now do you have a neighbor you already know you need to love better, without waiting for some dramatic word from God?
5. Eli eventually recognizes that God is calling Samuel and tells him how to respond. Pastor Roger noted that "nobody learns to hear God in isolation." Who has been an Eli figure in your life — someone who helped you recognize what God was doing or saying? How did their guidance shape you?

6. When Samuel finally listens, the message God gives him is hard: he must confront his own mentor. God's call, as Pastor Roger put it, "is not always comfortable, but it is always purposeful." Can you recall a time when you sensed God leading you toward something difficult — forgiving someone, speaking a hard truth, stepping into the unknown?
7. Have you ever been more in the place of Eli, the recipient of a challenging and true word? How did you feel when you came to recognize it as the word of God to you? How did you come to feel toward the messenger?
8. After receiving God's word, Samuel "lay there until morning" and "was afraid to tell the vision to Eli." What do you do with the gap between hearing something from God and acting on it? How do you handle fear or reluctance when what God seems to be asking feels costly?
9. Pastor Nick walked through a rhythm for listening to God: love God and neighbor now, listen with openness, talk back to God, listen again, begin again. Which step in that rhythm comes most naturally to you? Which one do you most need to develop?
10. This new series begins with the Easter declaration that the resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus — it is for us. How does believing that God has defeated death change the way you hear and respond to God's call on your life? What would you risk if you truly believed it?
11. Pastor Roger closed with a prayer invitation: instead of just praying for guidance, pray "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening." Are you willing to pray that this week? When? With whom?