

6) In thinking back through Chapter 2 about Eli's other sons Phineas and Hophni, how did they differ from Samuel? (If you need to review, go back and read the second half of Chapter 2.)

7) What is the difference in modern days between the sacred and the secular? Take a moment and give some examples of things that we would consider sacred.

8) One of the key things that Samuel did to lean into the sacred was listen to the voice of God. God is speaking today to His people. What are you doing to hear the voice of God in your life?

9) From the passage, had Eli received warnings previously about his son's and his behavior? Why do you think God singled out Samuel in this moment?

10) How did Eli receive the news that Samuel told him?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Thinking about the thread "where we direct our eyes determines our destination," what are your eyes focused on?
- 2) Today God is speaking to His people. What are you doing to be able to listen and hear His words?
- 3) What is God asking you to stop or start in your life?

## Here I Am

### Seeing the Sacred

Pastor Tim Layfield | February 16, 2025

*"Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon. One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly the Lord called out, 'Samuel!' 'Yes?' Samuel replied. 'What is it?' He got up and ran to Eli. 'Here I am. Did you call me?' 'I didn't call you,' Eli replied. 'Go back to bed.' So he did. Then the Lord called out again, 'Samuel!' Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. 'Here I am. Did you call me?' 'I didn't call you, my son,' Eli said. 'Go back to bed.' Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. 'Here I am. Did you call me?' Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel replied, 'Speak, your servant is listening.'"*

**1 Samuel 3:1 – 10 NLT**

*"As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable. And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle."*

**1 Samuel 3: 19 – 21 NLT**

**Message Thread:** Where we direct our eyes determines our destination.

### Seeing the Sacred:

Make ourselves **AVAILABLE**.

*"Go and lie down again..."* verse 9

- Make space/time to hear from the Lord.

Be ready to **RESPOND**.

*"Speak, Lord..."* verse 9

- Posture your heart to respond in obedience.

Be **HUMBLE** before the Lord (and His Word.)  
“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” Verse 9

- Being willing to walk in obedience.

### Challenge:

- Who are you listening to? (The sacred or secular?)
- Are you making yourself available to hear from the Lord?
- What has God told you?
- What is He asking you to start, stop, or have faith for?

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [DougBrittonBooks.com/resources](http://DougBrittonBooks.com/resources)*

## Life Group Homework

Here I Am

Winter 2025 | Week 6

Message Date 2/16/2025

### MY STORY



- 1) If you had to be trapped in a TV show for a month, which one would it be and how would you survive?
- 2) If you had to wear a warning label, what would it say?

### QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



This this week, Pastor Craig addressed something called church hurt. I want to address it without spending too much time in the details or what actually caused it. Meaning, I don't want to gossip about the things that have happened to us in the past. The reality is that church hurt comes from people misrepresenting God's heart in their words and actions. Because of this, people have walked away from their faith thinking that somehow the representatives of God are actually God.

- 4) If you have experienced some form of church hurt in the past, what did you do to heal from it?

- 5) The thread from Pastor Tim's message was "where we direct our eyes determines our destination." What are some of the ways that we can keep our eyes focused on Jesus today

### 1 Samuel 3 (NLT)

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon. 2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. 4 Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" 5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. 6 Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed." 7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. 8 So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. 9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. 10 And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." 11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. 12 I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. 13 I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. 14 So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings." 15 Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him. 16 But Eli called out to him, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," Samuel replied. 17 "What did the Lord say to you? Tell me everything. And may God strike you and even kill you if you hide anything from me!" 18 So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the Lord's will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best." 19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable. 20 And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. 21 The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.