# Samuel: A life well lived in difficult times

## 2. At boarding school: 1 Samuel 3

# God has called you

### God's call often comes in the guise of a familiar voice in our heads

## Part of God's nature to call people to faith

### Next time He calls make sure you respond with faith

#### Speak Lord, your servant is listening…

# The call of God is resistible

## Samuel in the Bible because he didn't resist the call

### He became a great leader because he heard and acted accordingly not just once but on a regular basis

### He was the key person in the second major cultural change the Israelites faced

# God speaks: Learn to listen to God

## Samuel’s story to help you learn to listen to God

### It took an older, wiser person to pass on the way God communicates

#### Not through the Law alone, but by His Spirit at work

## Samuel’s first encounter with God was to give him information

### God keeps His word

### God does not ignore the sins of His servants

## Samuel did NOT know how his part would fit in

### Samuel was used greatly but he was NOT perfect

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Voices in your head

## Whose voice(s) do you hear in your head at times of decision and why?

### How does it help you decide what to do or say?

# God speaking (v1)

## Why do you think ‘the word of the Lord was rare in those days’?

### Whose fault was it? Did God go quiet or was it because people were not listening? Discuss.

## Have there been times in your life when God spoke less or not at all?

### Why do you think that was? Tell your story.

# Knowing God (v7)

## Samuel had been at the tent of God for about 7 years before this happened and yet we are told that he didn’t yet know God

### What, if anything, can we do to help children ‘know God’?

## Samuel had some of the scriptures but ‘the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him’

### What’s the difference, if any, between reading the scriptures and the ‘word of the Lord being revealed’ to someone?

#### How can we help someone discern between the two?

##### Do we need to do this or is this God’s job?

# God’s call is resistible

## The Bible also teaches something of the ‘irresistible grace of God’ (Rom 8:28-30)

### But this is about listening to God and has examples (Hophni & Phinehas and Eli NOT listening, and Samuel and the prophet (2:27-36) listening)

#### Why do you think the Bible teaches ‘irresistible grace’ in Rom 8?

##### How does it help us?

##### How does it hinder the church in dealing with the non-Christian?

#### Why do you think the Bible also teaches the importance of listening to God?

# The first encounter

## What was your first encounter with God like (if you’ve had one)?

### When, where, what was it about?

#### If you don’t remember the first one, try telling an early one

## Why do you think it was a number of years before God spoke to Samuel?

### Why do you think God waited?

#### How do you think Samuel could use his early experience of living at the Tabernacle to shape his messages?