



# Leader Notes

## Experiencing God

February 14, 2010  
1 Samuel 3

### Devotional Seed:

When or How do you most often experience God? Be prepared to reflect on this as a leader. Do you meet God in music, in scripture, service, prayer nature etc.

### Deeper Roots:

1. What does 1 Samuel 3 teach us about the character of God? We certainly see a holy God who may be patient but will punish sin. We see a God who initiatives and who will personally engage people. We see a God who reveals himself.
2. How did Samuel experience God? Can we expect a similar experience? Samuel's experience of an audible voice and prophetic message may be rare, but God does speak to his people through the Spirit, word and sometimes circumstance.
3. Do you experience God in reading the scriptures? More of a personal reflective question.
4. How can we apply Eli's instructions to Samuel? How can it be a lesson for us? We too can take an open attitude towards God. This can be a lesson in that we can hold this attitude in expectation and invitation of God
5. What does Hebrews 11:6 and James 1:5-8 teach us about our role in preparing to experience God? Faith is important if we want to approach God and experience him more deeply.
6. Is there anything special about Samuel that would make him a candidate to experience God more deeply? There does not seem to be much from an outward perspective, although he is dedicated to God. He has an open attitude and must be full of faith.

### Bearing Fruit:

1. Does the example of Samuel challenge you to draw closer to God or does it make you feel distant by comparison?
2. Pastor Dave mentioned the world, the flesh and the devil as the tree main roadblocks to experiencing God. What is holding you back from a closer relationship with God?
3. Pray together and invite God to incline your heart towards a closer experience of Him.

### Branching Out:

Have you recently had a significant conversation with someone who does not yet have faith in Christ? How can we make these conversations a priority?