

## SAMUEL

### 1 Samuel 3 : 1 – 10

*Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*

*Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'*



The story of the call of Samuel (1 Samuel 3 : 1 – 10) begins with a real sense of diminishment: the word of God was rare, visions were few and Eli, the temple priest, was elderly with failing eyesight. And the young Samuel did not yet know the ways of God. However, we are given a hint of hope: 'The lamp of God had not gone out.'

When Samuel first heard his name being called, he did not recognise the voice of God and needed the wisdom of the elderly Eli to help him discern who was was happening. Because of the lived experience and insight of Eli, God had become real for Samuel who was able to respond: 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

- What (or who) gives you hope in times when it is difficult to see your way?
- Who has helped you to discover that God is real?
- Who has helped you to hear God's voice?
- The story of the call of Samuel is the inspiration behind **Samuel Groups**. These are groups for young adults who are discerning what God is calling them to do with their life. For more information about Samuel Groups, see: [www.ukvocation.org/samuel](http://www.ukvocation.org/samuel)