

Session #2

1 Samuel 3

It Starts with YOU

Icebreaker: Are there things that your kids are good at, enjoy, or show inclinations towards that are traits that they learned from you? Are your kids the opposite of you in any ways?

READ 1 Samuel 3:1-8

1- Samuel didn't realize it was the Lord that was speaking to him. If Eli didn't know the Lord, then there would be no way he could help Samuel to move forward in his relationship with the Lord. How have you developed a real, personal relationship with the Lord?

2- What are you telling your kids about God? How do you describe Him? What stories do you share about how God has personally impacted your life? More than just reading them stories in the Bible, parents can tell kids about their personal relationship with God!

(Personal story from Nathan: I grew up in church knowing who God was by reading the Bible and hearing sermons. Yet, it wasn't until my dad began to explain to me that I could have a PERSONAL relationship with God through His Son that I gave my life to Jesus. My parents making God/Bible personal and applicable to my current life is what the Holy Spirit used to change my life!)

READ 1 Samuel 3:9-10

3- Samuel didn't know how to respond to God, so Eli taught him how. The process started by teaching Eli how to listen. As a parent, do you know how to listen to God? How do you decipher God's voice in your life over all of the other voices?

(Personal note from Nathan: In my life, God often uses Christian men and women with the gifts of wisdom and discernment to speak truth into my life concerning things I am going through. That's why being in Christian community is so important! You and I NEED people in our lives that love us, love God, and are filled with wisdom and discernment to help us decipher what God is trying to do and tell us in our lives today.)

4- Parents often teach their kids how to pray by giving them phrases, general themes, or memorized prayers to recite. Yet, speaking to God is only half of what prayer is all about! How do you teach a child to listen to God and hear His voice? (Community, searching the Scriptures, listening in prayer, Holy Spirit, etc).

READ 1 Samuel 3:11-18

5- Samuel didn't know what to do with what he heard, so Eli taught him how to apply the Word from the Lord to his life. Many people are satisfied with learning more about God, but never allowing it to change their life through an act of obedient response. As a parent, how much of your focus is on APPLYING God's word to life instead of just LEARNING about God and the stories of the Bible?

6- What Eli knew and had experienced was passed on to Samuel. Take a minute and make a spiritual list of the things that you want to pass on to your kids.

Tips on how to help your kids recognize and discern the voice of God:

1. Spend time in the Bible together as a family
2. Help your kids develop their own love for and time in the Word
3. Choose an age-appropriate Bible from which to read together.
4. Buy a family devotion book with short, daily passages of Scripture to read around the table.