

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 24, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 2:12-26

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 2:26

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Leviticus 10:1-11.** Why start in Leviticus when our passage is in 1 Samuel? Several stories in the Pentateuch help us to understand better the context and setting of the book of 1 Samuel. The story of Eli's sons is no exception. This story in Leviticus helps us to see another dimension to the story of Hophni and Phineas.

(b) What do Nadab and Abihu do that causes them to be consumed by fire from the Lord? Who were Nadab and Abihu? Why would God kill them for doing something like this?

(c) Read Acts 5:1-11. This is the well known story of Ananias and Sapphira. What have they done that cost them their lives? How do both of these stories serve as warnings? What do they teach us about worshipping the Lord?

(d) What would be some examples of the ways that Christians try to worship God on their own terms (Jude 11-13)? What kind of worship does God desire (1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:15-17)? How do these verses from the New Testament emphasize this (Romans 12:1-2; Mark 7:6-7)?

(e) *Family:* Read (a) and then Leviticus 10:1-11. What do Nadab and Abihu do that causes them to be consumed by fire? Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What kind of worship does God want from us? How was this different from Nadab and Abihu? What does Jesus say about these people in Mark 7:6-7? Where is your heart today? Pray that you would have a heart that loves the Lord.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17.** How does this passage remind you of the story we looked at yesterday in Leviticus? As we read the Bible, one verse comes to mind for me always: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9 ESV).

(b) Note in verse 12, the writer begins a comparison that he makes with Samuel later in vv. 18, 21, and 26. He says that "they did not know the Lord." How does the description of their actions go to show this very fact? Read Leviticus 3:3-5; 7:22-36. What is it that they are doing? How would we make a modern day comparison to what they are doing?

(c) What is the response of the people coming to worship when they encounter priests like this? James 3:1, tells us that not many should be teachers because they will encounter harsher judgments. Why do you think this is so? How do both priests and teachers and pastors represent God in a unique way?

(d) Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. In light of what we have talked about, what kind of responsibility do we all have in representing Christ to the world? How does Paul describe this representation? Is it works, or being perfect? How do you accomplish this ministry that God has called you to?

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17. What are the sons of Eli doing that is so evil? How is this affecting how the world saw God? Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. How are we to be ambassadors or representatives of Christ? What do you think the world would say about God's people if we all acted like this? Pray for wisdom in how you could share and practice the good news of God's love for us.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21.** Today, we begin to see a comparison between Samuel and his family and Eli and his. Samuel is described as wearing an ephod which would look similarly to a linen sweater-vest except not attached on the side. According to these verses, what were ephods used for or associated with (Exodus 28:6-7; Judges 17:5; 2 Samuel 22:18)? What does this tell us about Samuel's role at the temple?

(b) We see that Hannah is still faithfully visiting Samuel and living out Proverbs 31:19-21. How do the actions of Samuel and Hannah compare with Eli and his sons? Even Eli acknowledges the faithfulness of Elkanah and Hannah and blesses them.

(c) What do we learn about the Lord through the struggle of Hannah and this final blessing of five children? Does God work always within our time frame or in the way we expect? Read 1 Samuel 26:23 and Hebrews 11:6. Rewards might not come in this life, but God is faithful to bless.

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21. How does Samuel's family compare to Eli's? Why are you thankful for the family that you are in? Samuel, even as a boy worshipped the Lord faithfully and helped minister at the temple. How can you help out at

your church? How does God reward faithfulness to Him? Have you ever experienced God's blessing in this way? Give thanks to God for your family and ask God to make your family a family of faith like Elkanah's.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:22-25.** The heading for this section in my bible says "Eli Rebukes His Sons." How strong of a rebuke does this seem to be? What do we learn about his son's ways in addition to stealing offerings from God? What do you think Eli should have done?

(b) Read Numbers 25:1-13. This is a story of a very different Phinehas. What is his response when he sees the very thing that Eli's sons are doing happen? What is the response to what he has done? Why?

(c) In verse 22, the phrase "he kept hearing" is used to describe Eli. It gives the impression that this had been going on for a long time. What does this say about Eli and his own affection for both his sons and God? What should Eli have done?

(d) How have we learned from 2 Peter and Jude that we are to respond when such people appear (Jude 17-23; 2Peter 3:14-18)? How are we to respond to people when they begin to fall into sin? What makes this so difficult to do? How does consistent authenticity make this easier to do (Romans 12:3)?

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:22-25. In verse 22, the phrase "he kept hearing" is used to describe Eli. It gives the impression that this had been going on for a long time. Should Eli have done anything differently? What would you have done and why? What should you do when you encounter such people (Jude 17-23; Galatians 6:1-3)? Pray for help to be focused on what God would have you do no matter the discomfort.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:26.** Our last verse of this passage should remind us of a similar New Testament passage. Describe the type of person Samuel is being described as.

(b) Read Luke 2:52. Why do you think that Luke would use such similar language to describe Jesus? What does this tell us about what Luke thought of Samuel?

(c) Look back through 1 Samuel 2:11-26. What is Samuel described as doing in these passages? Could you describe yourself with these same words? How do these verses instruct us to be like Samuel (Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 4:13-14; Ephesians 4:15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-3)?

(d) Take some time and ask the Lord how He might want you to grow this year. What area of your life does He want you to grow in? It might be in evangelism, bible study, scripture memory, giving, hospitality, theology, or serving. Ask someone for help in this both as accountability and as a source of encouragement.

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 2:26 and Luke 2:52. How can you grow in the Lord like Samuel did? What area of your life does He want you to grow in? It might be in evangelism, bible study, scripture memory, giving, hospitality, theology, or serving. Ask someone for help in this both as accountability and as a source of encouragement.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. This week has provided a stark comparison between those who desire to walk after the Lord and those who don't. Where are you on your journey? What is that one thing that the Lord might have you let go of and give to Him in faith? What are the things that are prohibiting growth in your life? Ask the Lord for help in putting off the deeds of the flesh and put on the Spirit.

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The Simple Life of the Godly

"Growing in favor with the Lord"