International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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1 Samuel 3:8–20 Discussion Questions

Choose 1 or more Questions from each of the five below.

1. Eli recognized that the LORD was calling Samuel and taught him how to respond (1 Samuel 3:8–10).

What can we learn from Samuel's readiness to answer and Eli's help in recognizing the LORD's call?

Why should we approach the Bible humbly, asking the Lord Jesus to teach us what He wants us to do?

How can parents, teachers, and other believers help someone learn to listen to God's Word?

2. Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:10).

How does listening with a willingness to obey differ from reading the Bible only to learn something interesting?

Why must we test any teaching or claimed message from God by what the Bible teaches?

How can prayer and the Holy Spirit's help prepare us to understand Scripture and obey Jesus?

3. The LORD announced judgment because Eli knew about his sons' sin and did not restrain them (1 Samuel 3:11–14).

What does God's judgment on Eli's household teach us about His holiness and the seriousness of knowingly allowing sin?

Why should religious sacrifices or outward acts of worship never be treated as substitutes for repentance and obedience?

When correcting wrongdoing is difficult, how can we seek God's help to act faithfully and lovingly?

4. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but he told him everything and hid nothing (1 Samuel 3:15–18).

Why might telling Eli God's message have been especially difficult for Samuel?

What can Samuel's honesty teach us about sharing difficult truths without changing or concealing God's Word?

How should we respond when Scripture exposes our sin or someone faithfully brings us a needed correction?

5. The LORD was with Samuel, fulfilled his words, and established him as a prophet throughout Israel (1 Samuel 3:19–20).

How did the fulfillment of Samuel's words confirm that the LORD had established him as His prophet?

How does Samuel's experience encourage us to depend on God while faithfully serving Him?

What specific teaching of Jesus can you put into practice this week as you pray, "Speak, Lord, I will obey"?