



DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of October 17, 2021: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Life Group Gatherings:

The key to the Life Group gathering is to disciple one another, but this does not need to be as daunting as it may sound. Discipleship begins by building community, which is best set up in the home for regular gatherings. For more on how to structure a Life Gathering go to the bottom of our "Devotion" page at www.aldersgatemn.com.

A Prayer for Groups & Personal Devotion:

Lord God, we pray today for all those who have no space no space to hear your voice, let alone heed it We pray for those surrounded by noise the noise of fighting, of hurt, of betrayal the noise that drowns out the still, small voice of God in the turmoil. We pray for those who are so hungry that they can think of nothing else but their quest for food For those who are so weary that they can think of nothing else but where they

Devotions for Life A LifeGroup Resource

The Story: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Context: This week's text is another huge leap. Last week the Israelites were in the wilderness where God would provide "daily bread" for them (manna). Shortly after that, God gives Moses the 10 Commandments, which gives this new community more order and structure. Eventually they get to the promised. They settle and enter a period wherein they are governed by judges, which is why there's a whole book in the Hebrew Bible called "Judges". In this period, we come to the book of 1 Samuel which begins with a woman named Hannah, who is barren and longing for a child. She



pledges to dedicate that child to the Lord's service, if she can have one. She does, and she names the child Samuel.

I will find rest. For those who feel so unloved and rejected that they can think of nothing else but the release of death. Lord God, help us to reach beyond the fullness and the noise, the hunger and the weariness, the hurt and the loss, to touch and to heal every brokenness, making room for you and your love that lightens the darkness and transforms all of life. Convict us by your word and lead us in your way for the glory of God. Amen.

Acts of Compassion & Justice:

This month our outreach focus is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), one of the highest rated relief organizations in the world. Go to www.umcmission.org and look around at where UMCOR is currently on the ground. How can you support their efforts? Is there one that seems to be capturing your attention?



Reading the Story: Remember this is all part of one big story. Read it that way. As you read, take your time. Read it paying attention to what jumps out to you. Is there a word or phrase or idea that hits you? Note if there is a question you have about it? Ask that question, search it, and wonder about it. Finally, ask yourself, "what is this story calling me to today?"

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- What words or phrases stood out to you in this reading?
- Why do you think Samuel kept thinking it was Eli calling him?
- How do you think you would have responded if you were Samuel? What if you were Eli?
- What does it mean to hear from God? Does God speak to us today? If so, in what ways?
- How have you ever heard God speaking to you in your life? How do you know it was God?
- How do we discern the voice of God in our lives versus other voices?
- What voices are clamoring for your attention these days? What voices are a distraction for you these days?
- What is one thing you can do to make room for God, God's presence, and God's voice in your life?
- What do you think God might be saying to you today?

