

The King & The Kingdom
1 Samuel 3 Discussion Questions

We can overcome the barrier of inexperience with growth in God's Word.

1. What are some ways we see Samuel's inexperience in this passage? What are some examples of inexperience in your life in which you had to learn and grow?
2. We said there is nothing wrong with inexperience as long as you don't stay there. Have there been seasons of significant growth in your spiritual life? Explain what factors led to this growth.
3. Part of growing in the Word is learning what it means to hear God's Word. I mentioned that I like to distinguish between hearing from God through what He has clearly revealed in the Bible and what I think God is leading me to do in a particular situation. Why is it important to keep this distinction? What are some of the dangers if we don't maintain this distinction?
4. Do you know how to hear the Word of God in the Bible? What does this look like for you? Are you better at hearing God's Word today than you were 1 year ago, 5 years ago, 10 years ago? How can a person continue to grow in hearing God Word? How do we keep from plateauing?

We can overcome the barrier of apathy with faithfulness to God's Word.

5. God's message to Samuel is that Eli's family will be cut off (vv.12-14). The reason Eli's family is being cut off started with his apathy (1 Sam 2). What are some ways we see apathy in our lives?
6. Samuel is an example of someone who was not apathetic. He heard and spoke God's Word even when it was difficult (v.18). Have you ever had to hear or speak God's Word in a difficult situation?
7. We even see Eli responding in a healthy way to this difficult news (v.18). Have you ever had to respond to God's Word in this way?
8. Just as a married couple can become apathetic, so a person can become apathetic to the Lord and His Word. We said faithfulness to do the things we are supposed to do is crucial for melting the apathy. What are some of the key things we are supposed to do, trusting that God will change our apathy? Have you had to do this?

We can overcome the barrier of sin with a new motivation for God's Word.

9. We saw in 1 Samuel 2 that sin prevented Eli's sons from hearing the truth (2:25). Sin affects us so that we don't hear God's Word. How does this happen? Have you ever experienced this?
10. Sin also effects us so that God's Word sounds terrible or unloving. What are some specific examples of ways that sin makes God's Word sound strange?
11. To overcome the barrier of sin we need to understand God speaks to us so we can know Him. If we understand this, why should it motivate us to hear and follow Him?
12. God has given us the greatest and ultimate revelation of Himself in His Son (Heb 1:1-2). Why should this motivate us to listen to Him and know Him and follow Him obediently?