

# DID I DREAM THAT?



## GROWTH GUIDE JULY 27, 2025

*Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10*

### AUTHOR

It is thought that Samuel may be the author but the book also includes writings from Nathan and Gad, who were prophets. Samuel means “heard of God” in Hebrew. Samuel was from Ephraim, born around 1120 B.C. and was dedicated to God’s service by his mother, Hannah. He served as Israel’s last judge, became one of Israel’s greatest prophets, and anointed the first two kings of Israel. He was a man of prayer.

### CONTEXT

Written originally for the people of Israel, 1 Samuel tells of the life of Samuel, the reign and decline of Saul, the first king of Israel, and David who was chosen and became Israel’s greatest king. 1 Samuel begins in the days of the judges and describes Israel’s transition from a theocracy (led by God) to a monarchy (led by a king).

Samuel’s father, Elkanah, had two wives, Peninnah who gave him children, and Hannah who was childless.

After praying for a son, Hannah promised God that if she became pregnant she would give the child back to Him. She gave birth, kept her word, and took Samuel to the tabernacle in Shiloh, leaving him with Eli the priest. Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Eli’s own sons, unfortunately, were corrupt and sinned against God. The 3rd chapter of 1 Samuel is about Samuel’s calling and obedient service as a prophet.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. In those days how often did the people hear from God?
2. By the time of Eli, there were no prophets speaking God’s messages to Israel. Why? Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17. Look at Eli’s sons and their actions. How did Eli’s lack of priorities regarding his family impact his oversight of worship in Israel?
3. Read 1 Samuel 2:30-35. What did God tell Eli he would do as a consequence of his sons’ sins? What did God promise would happen in verse 35?
4. What was the spiritual condition of Israel at this time? What is the spiritual condition of our nation? Where are we asleep spiritually?
5. The time had come for God to remove Eli’s priesthood and establish another. Returning to today’s scripture passage, how was the divine silence broken?
6. Samuel was called by the Lord 3 times. What was his response each time? Why did Samuel not realize it was God who was speaking to him? Read 1 Samuel 3:7.
7. Why do you think God spoke to Samuel, a child, rather than Eli, a priest? How did Eli instruct Samuel to answer, if God spoke to him again?
8. It is important in our relationship with God to listen and respond to him. How do you slow down, get quiet, and listen to God? What challenges you? There is a lot of noise in the world. How do you weed out all the voices and focus on God? How does utilizing scripture and prayer help you? What is your typical response to God?
9. Samuel listened and responded to God. What was the result of his obedience? Read 1 Samuel 3:19-21.

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