

Mindful Colouring

A Youth's Encounter with the Divine: Samuel's Calling

As we light this candle
And ring the bell
We pray that God is with us this day.

Close your eyes
Place your hand on your belly. Notice your breathe as your belly moves.
Breathe in through your nose and out
Through your mouth.
Breathe in and breathe and out
Repeat for 1 minutes.

Invite participants to begin colouring



Song - Lauren Daigle - Trust in You
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_aVFVveJNs

Song - Jeremy Camp - Walk By Faith
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgWocYpHm0o>

Scripture - 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect. The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL - Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reflection

This scripture about a young child Samuel is a lesson about learning to distinguish between different voices and influences: those that are merely echoes of our daily life and those that carry a deeper, more profound truth. Samuel's initial inability to recognize God's voice reflects of the human condition. We are often surrounded by many demands, opinions, and influences, many of which can lead us astray.

Reflection on this passage invites us to consider our own process of developing discernment. Just as Samuel, in his innocence, had to learn to recognize God's call, we too must develop the tools to discern the voices that vie for our attention. The path to such discernment is twofold.

Firstly, we must recognize the importance of mentorship and guidance. Eli played a crucial role in Samuel's life, helping him to understand and respond to the divine call. In our own lives, seeking mentors who embody the values and wisdom we aspire to can be invaluable. These mentors can be in the form of teachers, family members, spiritual leaders, or even the reflective experiences of others. Their insights can help us sift through the noise of our environment and focus on what truly nurtures our growth.

Secondly, we must cultivate a personal relationship with the source of the voices we choose to follow. For Samuel, this meant developing a relationship with God, learning to listen and respond to His call. In a broader sense, for us, it might mean learning to listen to our inner voice of conscience, to the inspirational stories of those we admire, or to the teachings of our faith or ethical principles. It is through relationship and consistent engagement that we learn to recognize the voice of truth.

Samuel's story also serves as a reminder that discernment is a skill that takes time to develop. Just as Samuel did not recognize God's voice on the first call, we may not always make the right choices about which voices to heed. However, with patience, prayer and practice, we can hone our ability to discern.

In a world where we are constantly bombarded with messages telling us how to think, what to do, and who to be, learning to trust the right voices is hard to do. We must be vigilant and wise, filtering out those influences that are harmful or distracting. In doing so, we learn to trust the influences and people that guide us toward growth, integrity, and purpose — voices that encourage us to act for the good of ourselves and others.

Silent Reflection

Silently reflect on the today's scripture passage and its meaning for us today. Reflect on the questions for reflection.

Discussion

1. What happened to Samuel?
2. How is this similar to our own lives?
3. How can we be distracted?
4. How can we learn to trust good influences?
5. How does God speak to us?

Prayers of the faithful

1. Heavenly Father, grant us the wisdom of discernment to recognize Your voice amidst the many that surround us. May we distinguish between those that lead us towards Your will and those that distract us from Your path. Guide us in understanding Your call and give us the strength to respond with, 'Speak, for your servant is listening. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

2. Loving God, we ask for guidance in our decisions and clarity in our thoughts. Just as Eli aided Samuel in understanding Your call, send us mentors and teachers who can help us navigate the complexities of life with Your wisdom and grace." Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

3. God of patience, teach us to be patient with ourselves as we learn to hear and understand Your voice. Remind us that growth in faith takes time, and just as Samuel grew in your presence, may we too grow steadily in our relationship with You, trusting in Your timing and Your revelations. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

4. Lord of all goodness, instil in us a deep trust in the voices that call us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You (Micah 6:8). May we be attuned to the inspirations that guide us to live out Your love in our actions and to trust in the goodness that You have planted within and around us. Lord hear us.

ALL - Lord hear our prayer.

5. Are there any other prayer?

Closing prayer

"Gracious and Almighty God,

We stand in gratitude for Your presence that whispers in the quiet moments of our lives. Like Samuel, may our hearts be open to Your call, ready to respond with a willing spirit. As we close this time of reflection, we ask for the grace to discern Your voice among many. Let our inner ear be attuned to Your words of guidance and love, and grant us the courage to follow where they lead. Bless us with mentors like Eli, who recognize Your work in us and encourage us to listen to Your will. May we rest in the assurance of Your faithfulness, trusting that You are with us, shaping our words and deeds for Your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen."