

# Unlikely

## Turning Up the Volume- Session #2

### Small Group Notes

#### Introduction:

**Have you ever met someone that dominated a conversation? What was it like trying to have a conversation with them?**

**When you spend time with God, do you spend more time talking or listening? Why?**

We live in a noisy culture. Whether it's the TV, our cell phones, music in the background, or even billboards on the side of the road, we are constantly being bombarded with voices. We also live in a culture that supports us believing that only what **we** say matters, therefore, we don't listen well. Our tendency can be that we miss or don't hear when God is trying to speak to us either because of distractions or a lack of a desire to listen. Therefore, if we want to listen to God and do what He says, we must learn how to let Him speak into our lives through His Word, circumstances, or other godly people.

#### Discuss:

1. Stay in the Right Place Even When It's Difficult. 1 Samuel 3:1

- Sin prevents us from hearing God's voice.
- Boredom prevents us from hearing God's voice.

Explain: While Eli was supposed to be the spiritual leader of the people, his actions showed his lack of concern particularly how he handled his sons in their lack of character (1 Samuel 2:15-17). Therefore, God is going to begin to use Samuel to be a contrast to Eli as someone that was ready to hear from God consistently (1 Samuel 2:34)

Ask:

**Similar to Eli and his sons, what are the things that can prevent us from hearing from God?**

**Eli was described as someone that was becoming physically blind while he was also spiritually blind in his heart. What are ways that we can become blind to the voice and direction of God in our lives?**

2. Cultivate a heart that is responsive to God's Word, 1 Samuel 3:2-10

- Don't confuse proximity with relationship

Explain: God's call and Samuel's response showed his desire to be both present and prepared to listen. Having a "Here I am" mentality shows that we are present spiritually for God to do a work through us and prepared to answer his call. Often, we may say that we are ready to do both, yet we end up living a life of routines of apathy, instead of a rhythm of being prepared to listen.

Ask:

**Consider these questions related to spiritual disciplines: Am I regularly participating in worship with God's people? Who are my refrigerator friends? Am I giving God the first part of my day?**

**What does it look like for you to have a "Here I Am" mentality?**

3. Prioritize one relationship above others. 1 Samuel 3:11-16.

Explain: Because Samuel learned to hear from God, God gave Samuel news that included both judgment and promises. Furthermore, God's words were intentional to show how ultimate authority rests with Him and not Eli and his sons that was a lesson in how to prioritize the Word of God.

Ask:

**What are the times that it is hard to trust in the promises of God? Why do we need to recognize the purpose of God's judgment and promises in our lives?**

**How have priorities in your life changed as you have trusted in God?**

4. Pursue God with active faith, not passive acceptance. 1 Samuel 3:17-18

Explain: For Samuel, the message was going to be a lesson not to cheapen or change the Word of God to appease Eli, rather, as God's

messenger, he simply had to be obedient to the Lord's call. In our lives, it is important to remember the call to keep as a priority in our lives is our relationship with God and not to give in to the things of this world, no matter the cost.

Ask:

**What does it look like when we become spiritually passive? What would it look like for us to act in faith?**

**What can I do this week to feed my faith to be more active?**

5. Expect God's Word to unite you with others and do something powerful in your life. 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1

Explain: God has created us to live in community with others, and one of the benefits of that community is the ability to speak His truth into each other's lives. We often hear from God best when people who we know and love affirm things He is teaching us, point out sin in our lives, or challenge and encourage us to take next steps in our faith journeys.

Ask:

**Why do you think God often chooses to speak to us through community? What does it mean for me to experience God's Word in a way that unites me to people that are different from me? Do I see evidence of God's transforming power in my life?**

**What can you do this week to feed someone else's faith?**

**Group Prayer Guide:**

- **Local**
  - **Journey Home** Pray for homeless to see their value and be willing to invest in themselves.
- **National**
  - **Edinboro Community Church Pennsylvania** Pray for boldness to share the gospel and open hearts among the people to whom we speak.
- **International**
  - **CHITTAGONG MUSLIMS OF BANGLADESH.** The people of Chittagong tend to put their trust in influential religious people. Pray that today's Islamic influencers in Chittagong will turn to Jesus and lead others to Him.

**Signup for Servant Saturday (September 24) as a Group!**