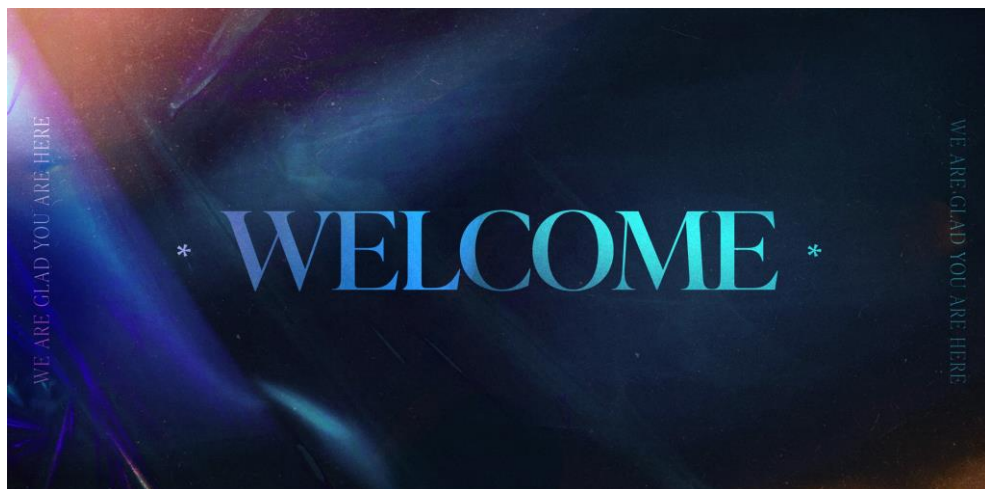


Discovery Service Order and Message Outline



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER This is amazing grace
 PRAYER
 SINGING TOGETHER All heaven declares
 UPDATES Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER Speak O Lord
 BIBLE READING 1 Samuel 3:1-21 (Church Bible page 323)
 MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER Open the eyes of my heart
 God I look to you



The Power of Prayer ~5

How to hear God: Speak, Lord, your servant is listening 1 Samuel 3:1-21

'Suddenly, the LORD called out, "Samuel! Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" He jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. What do you need?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go on back to bed." So he did. Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go on back to bed." Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. So now the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes, LORD, your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went back to bed. And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Yes, your servant is listening."' 1 Samuel 3:4-10 NLT

'Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family. I have warned him continually that judgment is coming for his family, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."' 1 Samuel 3:11-14 NLT

HOW TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD:

1. Be _____.

'Be still, and know that I am God.' Psalm 46:10 NIV

'When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again.'
 Matthew 6:7 NLT

'But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.'
 Matthew 6:6 NLT

1. God speaks through his _____.

2. God speaks through _____.

3. God speaks through _____.

4. God speaks through his _____.

2. Be _____.

'Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.'

Proverbs 3:6 NLT

3. Be _____.

'Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants; day and night they think about his law.' Psalm 1:1-2 NLT

'The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground.' 1 Samuel 3:19 NIV

THE IMPLICATIONS OF HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD:

'Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul! Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, for the life of your soul is at stake.'

Isaiah 55:2-3 NLT

1. Listening to God acknowledges God is in _____.

'Let go of your concerns! Then you will know that I am God. I rule the nations. I rule the earth.' Psalm 46:10 GW

2. Listening to God acknowledges God's _____.

'Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act.'

Psalm 37:7 NLT

3. Listening to God acknowledges God's _____.

'As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.' Psalm 103:13 NIV

'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

'Hear me, that your soul may live.' Isaiah 55:3 NIV

'Speak Lord for your servant is listening.' 1 Samuel 3:10 NIV



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. Would you describe yourself as more of a talker or a listener?
2. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21. Why was the word of the Lord rare in those days?
 - What is your own experience of hearing 'the word of the Lord'?
 - What is the connection between the 'word of the Lord being rare' and the detail given to us in v2-3?
 - What do Eli's near-blindness and the dimly burning Temple lamp communicate?
 - v4-10: Samuel was not able to recognise God's voice. If you were advising a new Christian how to hear God, what advice would you give?
 - v11-14: when Samuel does hear the word of the Lord it's pretty heavy stuff! As Samuel reflected on these words later in his life, what effect might they have had on his ministry as a mature man?
 - v15-21: You can understand Samuel's reluctance to share the word from the Lord with Eli (v15). Have there been times when you have had to share something hard with someone? What is the best way to share hard news?
3. When was the last time you were completely still before God, listening for His voice?
4. In order to hear God's voice, we need to be still, be willing, and be ready. Which of those three things do you think you struggle with most? Why?
5. In what ways, when we listen to God, does it help our stress levels?
6. Read Psalm 37:7. How might this verse be applied to your life?
7. Read Psalm 103:13 and 1 Peter 5:7. How does this aspect of God's character encourage us to listen to Him?
8. Read 1 Samuel 3:10. How does what Samuel says here impact you?

Watch us on



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.