

## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- We will remember our baptismal vows during worship with the words on the screen. It will take place after the prayer hymn and before the pastoral prayer.
- There will be a Blessing of the Backpacks slide just before Connect with the Discipleship Pathway with just a title on screen.
- At the 11 a.m. worship service there will be a Bible Presentation and Prayer of Dedication with a responsive prayer of dedication which will take place after everyone has received their Bibles and devotional books. It will take place after the offering.



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.

## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about relationships across generations and how they shape our faith.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because God speaks to us through others and building relationships helps make it possible.

### What is the good news?

The good news is that we are all children of God.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to pray for children and youth in our congregation and pray specifically, if asked.

## What is the context of this sermon?

This is the final sermon in the Family Matters worship series. It is Back to School Sunday when we are giving out Bibles and blessing backpacks.

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## Metadata

### Topics

- Change Lives
- Grow
- Make Disciples
- Share

### Sermon Books of the Bible

- 1 Samuel
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians

### Tags

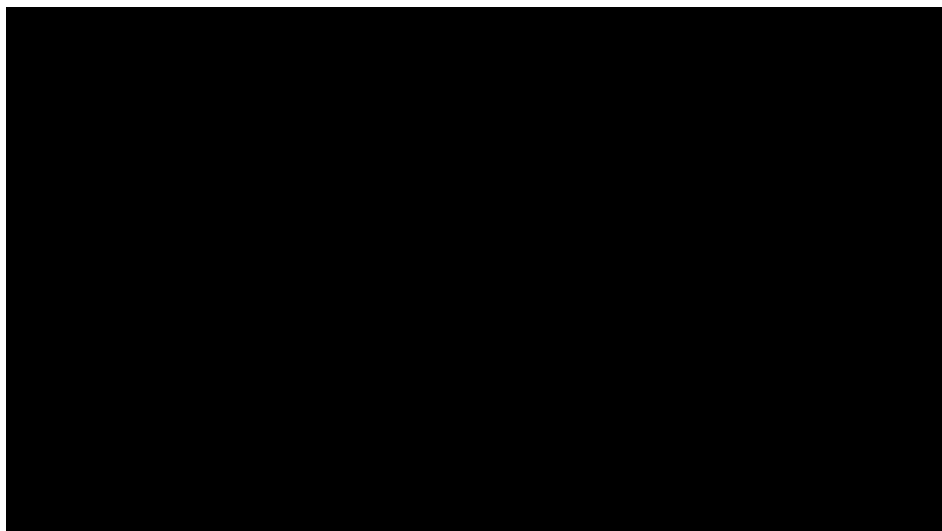
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, family, familyministry, children, youth, adults, discipleship, grow, parents

## Sermon Audio

***9 a.m. Worship***

***11 a.m. Worship***

## Sermon Video



**Introduction** **5**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

**Generational Experiences** **6**

Family Meal

Adults and Youth Table

Generational Differences in Family Meal Experience

Same Meal with Different Experiences

Adult and Youth Divide in Church

Generational Differences in Church Experience

Age Appropriate Ministry?

Family Ministry

Outcomes

Strategies

Transition

**Samuel** **7**

Background

Elkanah, Peninnah, and Hannah

Hannah's Prayer

Eli's Assumption

Eli's Blessing and Samuel's Birth

Samuel in Eli's Care

Today's Scripture

Samuel Hears a Voice

Key Scripture - 1 Samuel 3:8-9

We Need Each Other

Need for Relationships

Recognizing God's Call

Generational Connections

Personal Example: Wayne Fowler and Tomatoes

## **Conclusion**

**10**

Call to Action

Prayer for Kids and Youth

Identify “My 3” Prayer Partners for Each Child

Connect with Your Prayer Partner

Connect at Family Ministry Events

Good News

Invitation

Children, Spouses and Pets

Likeness of God

Fruit of the Spirit

God’s Family

Closing Prayer



## Introduction

### 1 Samuel 3:1-10, CEB

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. <sup>2</sup>One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. <sup>3</sup>God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

<sup>5</sup>Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

<sup>6</sup>Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(<sup>7</sup>Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

<sup>8</sup>A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

<sup>10</sup>Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

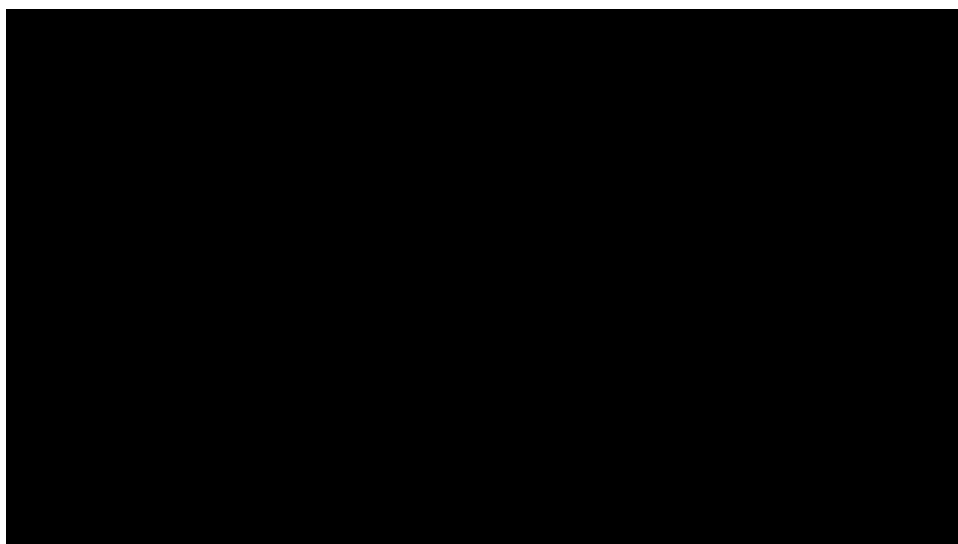
## Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Starter Video

Play  
sermon starter  
video.



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## Generational Experiences<sup>1</sup>

### Family Meal

I am one of ten cousins on my mom's side of the family. For family holidays during my youth, 20 something of my relatives would gather at my Grandma and Grandpa Fieser's house for Christmas. It was way too many people to fit at one table in their home.

#### ***Adults and Youth Table***

So there were two tables that were set up: the adults' table and the kids' table. Of course, we aren't the only family to arrive at this clever and practical "two table" solution. I'm sure many of you can remember something like these two tables at your family gatherings.

#### ***Generational Differences in Family Meal Experience***

The adults ate in the dining room and the kids ate in the living room.  
The adults sat at the dining room table. We sat around card tables.  
They ate off nice plates. Many times we ate off paper plates.  
They were all even napkins – cloth napkins at that.  
We had paper napkins – or our shirt sleeves.  
I imagine that they had pleasant conversations. Our conversations could devolve into fits of laughter (or snorting for one of my cousins). It was that or we would eat as fast as we could and move on to parlor games or board games.

#### ***Same Meal with Different Experiences***

In theory, we were all at the same meal. In reality, the adults and the kids had very different experiences.

### Adult and Youth Divide in Church

#### ***Generational Differences in Church Experience***

That sounds a lot like how many of us experience church today. The adults' table is in the bigger, nice room; the kids' table is down the hall.  
Most churches have adult pastors ... and youth pastors.  
Adult worship services ... and children's Sunday School.  
Adults bring stuff to give away ... and youth go on mission trips.

#### ***Age Appropriate Ministry?***

Do children and youth need time to be together and on their own? You bet.  
However, you may have heard the saying: "Balance is something we swing through on our way to the other extreme. And I'm afraid that's what's happened here. In our effort to offer relevant and developmentally appropriate teaching and fellowship for teenagers, we have segregated youth from the rest of the church.

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<sup>1</sup> Following section adapted from: Kara E. Powell, Brad M. Griffin & Cheryl A. Crawford. "Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition." iBooks. <https://itun.es/us/1i751l>.

*Pause*

And that segregation is causing students to shelve their faith.

*Pause*

## Family Ministry

### **Outcomes**

Our hope is to bring together the generations in our congregation and community to help both youth, adults, and children have a more vibrant experience of Christian community. We are calling this family ministry.

### **Strategies**

We have a two part strategy for family ministry:

- 1) Partner with families to help raise children in the faith
- 2) Increase connections between children, youth, and adults

### **Transition**

To help us understand a little more about family ministry, let's take a look at the scripture passage for today.

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## Samuel

Let me remind you of Samuels' story.

## Background

### **Elkanah, Peninnah, and Hannah**

Samuel's mother was Hannah and his father was Elkanah. Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had children; Hannah did not. Nonetheless, Elkanah favored Hannah. Jealous, Peninnah reproached Hannah for her lack of children, causing Hannah much heartache. Elkanah was a devout man and would periodically take his family on pilgrimage to the holy site of Shiloh.<sup>2</sup>

### **Hannah's Prayer**

On one occasion Hannah went to the sanctuary and prayed for a child. In tears, she vowed that were she granted a child, she would dedicate him to God as a Nazirite.

### **Eli's Assumption**

Eli, who was sitting at the foot of the doorpost in the sanctuary at Shiloh, saw her apparently mumbling to herself and thought she was drunk, but was soon assured of her motivation and sobriety.

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<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Samuel," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Samuel&oldid=794790776> (accessed August 10, 2017).

### ***Eli's Blessing and Samuel's Birth***

Eli was the priest of Shiloh, and one of the last Israelite Judges before the rule of kings in ancient Israel. Eli blessed her and she returned home. Subsequently Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to Samuel.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Samuel in Eli's Care***

After the child was weaned, she left him in Eli's care, and from time to time she would come to visit her son. Samuel worked under Eli in the service of the shrine at Shiloh.

## **Today's Scripture**

### ***Samuel Hears a Voice***

One night, Samuel heard a voice calling his name. According to the first-century Jewish historian Josephus, Samuel was about 11 years old. Samuel initially assumed it was coming from Eli and went to Eli to ask what he wanted. Eli, however, sent Samuel back to sleep. After this happened three times, Eli realized that the voice was the Lord's, and instructed Samuel on how to answer.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Key Scripture - 1 Samuel 3:8-9***

Hear again these words from 1 Samuel 3:8-9

<sup>8</sup>A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

*Pause*

## **We Need Each Other**

### ***Need for Relationships***

"This story reminds us that the divine word is often mediated through human words. In our efforts to discern God's will, we recognize in the story the need for community. First Samuel, then Eli, and finally all Israel requires the mediation of others to hear and understand God's word for their lives.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Samuel," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Samuel&oldid=794790776> (accessed August 10, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Samuel," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Samuel&oldid=794790776> (accessed August 10, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *1 Samuel*, vol. II of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 995.

### ***Recognizing God's Call***

With humility, we realize that, like Samuel, we may not ourselves recognize the call of God. It may be others, like Eli, who discern the divine presence first and name the divine name so that we may be enabled to respond. This text calls for openness to seeking the advice and wisdom of others who might aid us in discerning God's call.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Generational Connections***

Eli was at least two generations older than Samuel. His own sons were not particularly faithful, yet he invests in those that are younger so that they can hear God. Generational relationships are important.

*Pause*

### ***Personal Example: Wayne Fowler and Tomatoes***

Let me give you an example from our life.

A few weeks ago, Wayne Fowler invited John and Anne over to pick tomatoes in their garden. Wayne's daughter, Pam Powers, had been staying with Wayne for a few weeks over the summer and she had been thinking about how much John and Anne might enjoy picking fresh tomatoes. They had more than enough produce for their own needs and wanted to share with others.

So, Sunday afternoon, we hop in the car and head over to Wayne's home. He has a wonderful garden in the backyard with a bumper crop of tomatoes. He showed them the just the right color of red, where they were hiding, and shared some of what he knew with our children - two generations between them.

Here is one of the pictures I took in the afternoon.

[Show tomato picking picture]



<sup>6</sup> Leander E. Keck, ed., *1 Samuel*, vol. II of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 995.



It was beautiful.  
Now, I recognize that this experience is a little bit unusual.  
But it doesn't have to be.

## Conclusion

### Call to Action

We hope to partner with parents to help raise lifelong followers of Jesus.

We are ready to implement the next step in that plan.

Whether or not you have children living with you, you are an important part of the work God is doing in the lives of children in your family, our church, our community and beyond.

If you are active here at the church and we have an up to date mailing address for you, you will be receiving a letter one or more cards in them. They are designed to help launch the next step of family ministry, so I want to take a moment to explain them to you. Let's take a look at them...

[Show Prayer and My 3 Card.  
Leave on screen throughout this section...]

<p><b>Prayer for Kids and Youth</b> Adapted from a prayer written by Marian Wright Edelman</p> <p>I pray and stand for children who need my voice - those I know, and for those I don't. I pray for parents, grandparents, teachers, and political and community leaders who will help all children I pray for my church, that we will recognize that it is everyone's responsibility to invest in our youth. I pray for myself, that I might make some difference in the life of a child today and everyday, through my time, interest, and</p>	<p><b>My 3 Card</b></p> <p>Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we haven't stopped praying for you and asking for you to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. - <b>Colossians 1:9</b></p> <p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>These people are praying for me:</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p><a href="http://www.FirstUMCEIDorado.org/family">www.FirstUMCEIDorado.org/family</a></p>
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### **Prayer for Kids and Youth**

Everyone will be receiving the card on the left. It is a prayer card designed to help you pray for the children and youth of our congregation and community, at least once a week. Whether or not you have children living at home, parents, children and youth need your prayers. Prayer is powerful.

I invite you to join me in praying for the children and youth of our congregation and community, at least once a week.

*Pause*

If you need some idea about how to pray for children and youth - use this card. If you don't receive one in the mail this week, we will have them available for you to pick up next Sunday.

*Pause*

### **Identify "My 3" Prayer Partners for Each Child**

If you have children living at home, I invite you to identify and ask three people in the congregation, who are not related to you, to be prayer partners for your kids.

*Pause*

The card on the right, which we are calling a My 3 Card, is designed to be a tool to help you. You will receive one for each child in your family. Here is how it works...

You write your child's name at the top and then the names of the people that have made a commitment to pray for your child. After it is completed, place the card somewhere where your child will see it regularly.

If you need help identifying someone to be a prayer partner with your child, please let me know. Let Valecia know. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to get connected across generations.

### **Connect with Your Prayer Partner**

If you are asked to be a prayer partner for a particular child, pray for them!

Say "hi" when you see her in the church and community.

Ask about the activities in which she participates.

*Pause*

### **Connect at Family Ministry Events**

We are also creating four events this school year designed to help you connect across generations. The dates for Family Ministry events this school year are:

#### **Family Ministry Events**

- Sunday, October 8, 2017
- Sunday, January 21, 2018
- Sunday, April 22, 2018
- Sunday, July 8, 2018

*Pause*

### **Good News**

The good news is that we are all children of God.

God speaks to us through others.

We are designed to be in relationship with each other.

## Invitation

### ***Children, Spouses and Pets***

It's obvious, isn't it, that children very often look like their parents. What is amazing is that they often look like both parents, even if the parents look quite different from each other.

Sometimes, even, husbands and wives grow to look like each other, because they spend so much time with one another.

Even dogs and their owners grow to look like each other.

### ***Likeness of God***

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are all becoming more and more like Christ.<sup>7</sup>

You are made in the image of God.

### ***Fruit of the Spirit***

The Holy Spirit is changing us...

To become more like Jesus...

To have more love, joy, and peace in our lives...

To encounter others with patience, kindness, and goodness...

To live with faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...<sup>8</sup>

### ***God's Family***

This is life that is worth sharing with other generations.

This is life when we recognize we are daughters and sons of God.

This is life as part of God's family.

Family Matters.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

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*And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.*  
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Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.

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<sup>7</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18, CEB.

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from Galatians 5:22-23, CEB.