



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
1 Samuel 3:1-10 | April 12, 2026  
Prepared by DJ Severin  
dj@gspc.org | (562) 493-2553 x115

## I. Introduction to this Study

“How can I hear the voice of God?”

It’s a question many of us have asked, especially when we’re looking for direction or clarity. We wonder, is God speaking? And if He is, how would I recognize it? And how would I know it’s really Him?

In 1 Samuel 3, God speaks clearly to Samuel, but Samuel doesn’t recognize who it is. He hears the voice, but he doesn’t yet know the Lord well enough to identify it. And even when he begins to understand, he still needs help to make sense of what’s happening.

This passage shows us that hearing God is not always as obvious as we expect. It also shows us that learning to recognize His voice and respond to Him is part of what it means to grow in relationship with Him.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Think of someone whose voice you can recognize instantly (on the phone, in a crowd, etc.). What makes their voice familiar to you?

## III. Study the Text

*Read 1 Samuel 3:1–10*

- What stands out about the spiritual climate described in verse 1? How does that compare to how people view hearing God today?
- Verse 7 says Samuel “did not yet know the Lord.” What does it mean to know God in a way that helps you recognize His voice?
- Eli recognizes what Samuel cannot. Why might God use other people to help us discern His voice?



- Samuel responds, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” What makes that kind of response difficult?

#### IV. Reflect and Respond

- Do you think you’ve ever had a moment where God may have been prompting you, but you weren’t sure if it was Him? What made it unclear?
- When you sense something internally, how do you usually evaluate whether it is from God, from yourself, or from somewhere else?
- Of these three—Scripture, inner prompting, and wise counsel—which do you tend to rely on most? Which do you tend to overlook?
- Are there voices in your life (people, habits, distractions) that might make it harder for you to recognize God’s voice?
- Is there anything in your life right now where you sense God might be prompting you, but you are hesitant to fully open yourself to it?
- What would it look like for you to take a step toward a more open and willing posture this week?

#### V. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Ask God to help you recognize His voice more clearly
- Pray for wisdom to discern what is truly from Him
- Ask for a heart that is open and willing, not resistant or guarded
- Pray that your church would become a community that listens well and responds faithfully

#### VI. Digging Deeper

- Jesus says in *John 10:27*, “My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me.” What do you think it means to become familiar with God’s voice over time?
- In *1 Thessalonians 5:19–21*, Paul says, “Do not quench the Spirit... test everything; hold fast what is good.” How do you see both openness and discernment held together in that instruction?
- Why is it important that God’s voice will never contradict Scripture? How does that protect us?
- How can other people help us discern what God might be saying? When have you seen that done well or poorly?
- What are some dangers of relying only on your own thoughts or feelings when trying to hear from God?

