



## A LIFE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 10:4

*The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. <sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*

*John 10:4*

*<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

What is your response when a person says God told him or her to do something? We need the Holy Spirit's guidance in order to discover how to live as Jesus would live if he were in our place. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is not reserved for "important," "spiritually mature," or "more spiritual" people; it is available to each of us. The Holy Spirit can and will provide guidance when we seek the kingdom of God above all else. Learning to be receptive and responsive to the leadings or promptings of the Holy Spirit is nonoptional if we are to live transformed lives.

### QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt that God was communicating something to you. How did you know it was God?
2. In John 10:1–4, What does this passage teach you about God as our shepherd? What does it teach about us as his sheep?
3. What have you discovered that has helped you grow in your awareness of your life in God, even in the midst of your daily responsibilities?
4. What are some of the things that get in the way of you being attentive to God? What can you do to remove some of these roadblocks in the coming week?

### GROUP PRAYER DIRECTION

Take time to thank God for the many ways he speaks through his Word, through others, through his creation, through life circumstances, and through the still small voice of his Spirit. Also, pray and ask for the ability to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd with greater and greater clarity.