



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals:

On Sunday, we explored 1 Samuel 3 and reflected on how God breaks silence with a word that both calls and corrects. We saw how Samuel, though young and inexperienced, was willing and available, and how that positioned him to hear God's voice even when seasoned leaders had grown spiritually dull. We were reminded that God's Word is not rare because He is silent, but because we often stop listening. Through Samuel's story, we were challenged to become people who are teachable, courageous enough to speak truth, and humble enough to receive correction. Ultimately, the message pointed us to Jesus, the final and perfect Word of God, who not only speaks but embodies the truth, calling us to follow Him with ears open and hearts ready.

Monday: When God's Word Is Rare

Scripture:

"Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision." 1 Samuel 3:1

Devotional:

In Samuel's day, the Word of the Lord had become rare. It wasn't that God had changed or lost His voice. It was that people had stopped listening. The rituals of religion continued, but the relationship had grown cold. The priests were corrupt, and spiritual blindness had crept in from the top down. In that silence, God began again with a boy, not a priest. This tells us something crucial: God speaks to those who are ready to hear.

Our culture is flooded with noise: social media, endless news, opinion overload. We have Scripture at our fingertips, yet for many, God's voice still feels distant. Perhaps we need to ask: are we listening? Or have we become like Israel, busy with religious routine but deaf to divine instruction?

God's Word is still alive. Still powerful. Still speaking. But it demands our attention and our humility. Samuel was near, willing, and teachable. That is what God used. And that is what He is still looking for today.

Reflection Questions:

1. When was the last time you truly listened for God's voice?
2. How can you guard against spiritual routine becoming empty habit?
3. What might God be saying that you have been too distracted to hear?

Prayer:

Lord, help me not to take Your Word for granted. Give me ears to hear, a heart to respond, and the courage to act. Where I have ignored Your voice, forgive me. Make me teachable again. Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening. Amen.

Tuesday: Learning to Listen

Scripture:

"At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. And the Lord called again, 'Samuel!' and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant hears.'" - 1 Samuel 3:2-10

Devotional:

Samuel heard the voice of God, but he didn't recognize it at first. He mistook it for Eli's voice, not once, but three times. It took the insight of an aging priest to help a young servant recognize God's call. That exchange says something timeless: even the called need help learning to listen.

Many of us are eager to follow God's will but unsure of how to discern His voice. We mistake it for our own thoughts or for someone else's opinion. That doesn't mean we're unfaithful. It means we're growing. God is patient with us in the process. He speaks again and again until we learn to hear.

And for those of us further along, like Eli, there is a calling too: to guide others into recognition. You don't have to be perfect to help someone else hear God. You just have to be willing. Samuel needed Eli. Your wisdom might be the key someone else needs to unlock their calling.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever mistaken God's voice for something else?
2. Who has helped you discern God's leading in your life?
3. Who might God be asking you to guide in their journey?

Prayer:

Father, teach me to hear You clearly. When I am confused, surround me with wise voices. When I am sure, keep me humble. Help me guide others gently, and never stop speaking until I respond. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday: A Shocking Word

Scripture:

"Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.'" - 1 Samuel 3:11-14

Devotional:

When Samuel finally hears God's message, it isn't comforting. It's a word of judgment against the house of Eli. The ears of the nation would tingle not from joy but from horror. God was acting because sin had gone unrestrained, even by those meant to uphold holiness.

This kind of word is difficult. We want God to speak blessing, not rebuke. But when sin spreads unchecked, silence becomes complicity. Eli knew what his sons were doing, and though he warned them, he failed to stop them. The result? God judged the entire household.

It reminds us that holiness matters. Leadership matters. Our choices affect more than just ourselves. God is merciful, but He is also just. He will not allow His name or His people to be dishonored forever. So the question is: what are we tolerating that we should confront?

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life or leadership where sin is being tolerated?
2. How do you distinguish between mercy and enabling?
3. What does this passage teach you about the weight of responsibility?

Prayer:

Holy God, search my heart. Show me where I have been silent when I should have spoken, passive when I should have acted. Let Your justice wake me up, but let Your mercy draw me close. Keep me faithful, even in hard truths. Amen.

Thursday: The Courage to Speak

Scripture:

"Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' And he said, 'Here I am.' And Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, 'It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him.'" - 1 Samuel 3:15-18

Devotional:

Samuel was afraid to deliver God's message. Can you blame him? Eli was his mentor, maybe like a father. And now he had to tell him that judgment was coming. But Samuel obeyed. He spoke every word. No edits. No avoidance. That is what faithfulness looks like.

It takes courage to speak hard truth. Especially to those we love or respect. But if God gives us a word, silence is not an option. Samuel passed his first prophetic test not by being eloquent, but by being obedient. And Eli, to his credit, received the word without resentment.

Sometimes we are Samuel, called to speak. Sometimes we are Eli, called to listen. In both cases, humility is essential. God honors truth spoken in love and truth received in surrender. This is how growth happens. This is how the church stays holy.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you had to speak a hard truth?
2. Are you more often in the role of Samuel or Eli?
3. What helps you receive correction with humility?

Prayer:

God, give me the courage to speak what You say, even when it's hard. And give me the grace to receive correction when I need it. Let both truth and love guide my words and my responses. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday: A Life That Speaks

Scripture:

"And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground." - 1 Samuel 3:19

Devotional:

The silence is broken. God is speaking again. And Samuel is the one He chooses. Verse 19 says, "The Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground." That is the mark of a prophet: not just receiving words, but living them out with integrity.

Samuel's life became a vessel for God's presence. What he said mattered because who he was matched what he spoke. His words had weight, not because of eloquence, but because of alignment. When you walk closely with God, your voice carries authority.

The world doesn't need more noise. It needs voices of truth that reflect a life of faithfulness. Let your words be shaped by time in God's presence. Let your life back up what you say. Like Samuel, may none of your words fall to the ground.

Reflection Questions:

1. What makes a person's words trustworthy?
2. How can you grow in integrity between your words and actions?
3. Who in your life lives like Samuel: faithful, steady, honest?

Prayer:

Lord, I want my life and my words to match. Let Your Spirit shape me so that what I say reflects who You are. Keep me faithful, even in small things. Let my words be few, but full of truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Saturday: The Word Became Flesh

Scripture:

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." - Hebrews 1:1-2

Devotional:

Samuel was a prophet who spoke God's Word. But Jesus is the Word made flesh. Hebrews reminds us that while God once spoke through prophets, now He has spoken through His Son. Jesus is not just the messenger. He is the message.

Samuel served near the ark. Jesus is our mercy seat. Samuel announced judgment. Jesus bore it. Samuel heard the Word. Jesus is the Word. Everything Samuel foreshadowed, Jesus fulfilled. If Samuel teaches us how to listen, Jesus teaches us whom to listen to.

So the invitation is not just to hear, but to follow. Not just to read the Word, but to be shaped by the One who embodies it. The silence is over. The Word has come. His name is Jesus. Will you hear Him and obey?

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Word of God?
2. How do you hear Him today: through Scripture, Spirit, and community?
3. What step of obedience is God calling you to take?

Prayer:

Jesus, You are the living Word. Teach me to know You, to hear You, and to follow You. Let my life be shaped by Your truth and filled with Your grace. I surrender to Your voice. Speak, Lord. I am listening. Amen.