



## **PURSUIT**

September 20, 2020

### **The PURSUIT Mark:**

seek to know Christ personally, through spiritual practices and corporate worship

#### **1 Samuel 3**

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.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> 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." <sup>19</sup> And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

## What do we learn from the story?

God is \_\_\_\_\_.

See also Philippians 3:8.  
Two kinds of knowing: factual and personal  
John 10:3; Luke 10:20; Revelation 20:11-15

God is \_\_\_\_\_.

See also 2 Peter 3:8.

God is \_\_\_\_\_.

John 10:27: "my sheep HEAR my voice"

## Listening Survey (Credit: Brad Jersak in *Can You Hear Me?*)

1. Has God ever invited you into his family?
2. Have you ever heard God through Scripture?
3. Has God ever spoke to your heart through a preacher or teacher?
4. Has God spoken to your heart through worship?
5. Does God ever address issues you need to make right with God or others?
6. Does he ever affirm areas where you truly please him?
7. Have you ever felt a strong urge to pray for someone?
8. Has God ever prompted you to encourage someone?

## How do I hear God?

P \_\_\_\_\_.

P \_\_\_\_\_.

P \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Reflection Questions

Walk through the listening survey from today's message. How can you thank God for how he has spoken to you in the past?

Do you find that you spend more time talking or listening to God?

What would it look like for you to have a posture of listening in your relationship with God?

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## Practices

### Reengage in Prayer and Scripture Reading

If you're just starting your spiritual journey, or you've taken a break from these daily spiritual disciplines, there's no better time to start than now. Just remember that your spiritual posture (humility, listening) must accompany your spiritual practices.

If you are looking for a good Bible-reading plan or for a helpful way to read the Bible, check out some of the resources on our website: [thecrosspointchurch.ca/tools](http://thecrosspointchurch.ca/tools)

### Practice the Presence of God

This spiritual practice was made most famous by the seventeenth-century French monk, Brother Lawrence. He desired to have an ongoing conversation with God throughout the day. In his book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, he writes:

I make it my business to rest in His holy presence which I keep myself in by a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God. This often causes in me joys and raptures inwardly, and sometimes even outwardly, so great that I am forced to use means to moderate them and prevent their appearance to others.

You can learn to do this - begin your day with offering all you have to God. Invite God into every moment of your day. Then, seek to be mindful of God all throughout the day. Check on yourself to see if you are still living in his presence (maybe set a few alarms on your phone). This will be challenging at first and it is something you need to practice, so don't be discouraged when you drift. Once you discover yourself drifting, just begin again. At the end of the day, reflect on what happened.

### Practice Examen

The examen has been a tool used for centuries to help people find direction in their lives. Consider practicing the examen *for two consecutive days*.

Here's a summary, from Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*:

"The examen provides a way of noticing where God shows up in our day. It is a practice that attends to what we might otherwise miss in the press of duties and busyness. The questions of the examen open our attention to how God's internal movement is present in our external comings and goings. They lead us to listen deeply to the data of our lives. These questions help us to pay attention to our mental state, our body responses, and our emotional baggage . . . The

examen helps us to recognize the things that bring us death and life. Once these things are known, they become part of our ongoing interaction with God in prayer.

Examen questions include:

- For what moment today am I most grateful? For what moment today am I least grateful?
- When did I give and receive the most love today? When did I give and receive the least love today?
- What was the most life-giving part of my day? What was the most life-thwarting part of my day?
- When today did I have the deepest sense of connection with God, others, and myself? When today did I have the least sense of connection?
- Where was I aware of living out of the fruit of the Spirit? Where was there an absence of the fruit of the Spirit?

### **Practice Life-Centred Prayer**

This is similar to the practice of examen and should be done at the end of each day. Try it for *two consecutive days*.

Here's a summary, from Marjorie J. Thompson in *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*:

“Ben Campbell Johnson speaks of ‘learning to pray with our lives.’ He suggests a basic process to ‘integrate the life of prayer into the ordinary events and decisions of everyday life’

*Gather the day.* Identify the ten or twelve major events of your day, including prayer, particular conversations, meetings, meals, work, and other activities. List them.

*Review the day.* Reflect upon each occurrence listed, without judging yourself, avoiding feelings, or making excuses. This is the actual substance of your daily life.

*Give thanks for the day.* Thank God for each part of your day, for your life, and for God's presence in the midst of it.

*Confess your sin.* Acknowledge your faults in thought, word, and deed toward God, your neighbour, and yourself (you might add the creation, too).

*Seek the meaning of the events.* Reflect on the larger significance of each event in your life, asking yourself such questions as, What is God saying to me? What am I being called to do? How is this connected to the rest of my life? Write down what comes to mind