08/20/23 Facilitator – 1 Samuel 2:12-18, 21-26, 30-35; 3:1, 19-21; 4:1a “The Fall of Eli & Rise of Samuel” Brown Peterson

1. **Launcher: What comes to mind for you when you hear the word “intimacy”? Is it a story? A person? A word? A feeling?**
2. **Worship God – Psalm 96:1-6**

Praise and adore God for his faithfulness! Worship the fact that God is faithful to his Word and to his people to always provide and send forth his gospel.

1. **Sermon Reflection: “The Fall of Eli & Rise of Samuel”**

**Spiritual Emptiness of Israel**

* What made Eli’s sons worthless?
* What irony is found in their roles as priests with the kind of character they had?
* In a similar manner as Israel and its priests, where have you felt your heart shrink the voice of the Lord and listen to the loud call of this world?

**God’s Determined Solution**

* What is God determined to see happen in his people? (Think of Brown’s illustration with saying “Yes Mam and No Sir” in the South).
  + Why is God so determined? What motivates Him?
* Have you ever had to tell someone bad news that you didn’t want to deliver because of how your perceived they might respond? Imagine Samuel’s situation, what is going on with him in this story?
* “God’s judgment always has a promise embedded in it.” – Eugene Peterson
  + How is that true in this story? Where else have you seen this in the Bible? What does that tell you about our God?

**The True Prophet, Priest, and King**

* In what ways does Jesus fulfill the office of Prophet? Pray together in adoration to our Great Prophet.
* In what ways does Jesus fulfill the office of Priest? Pray together in adoration to our High Priest.
* In what ways does Jesus fulfill the office of King? Pray together in adoration to our King of Kings.

1. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**
2. Praise and adore God for his faithfulness! Worship the fact that God is faithful to his Word and to his people to always provide and send forth his gospel.
3. Where have you felt your heart grow numb or cold to the Lord? Worship God and confess your sins where his Word, his ways, his design, or his call on your life has no weight on you.
4. Give thanks to Jesus, the true Prophet, Priest, and King who cares for you! Ponder all of the ways he intercedes for you in prayer, praise Him for being your great sacrifice, and reflect on how he leads and protects you with his leadership.
5. Who in your life has rebelled against Jesus with their lives and beliefs? Pray for them that they would stop, turn, and behold Jesus as their great love that they are searching for.
6. Ask the Spirit to bring to mind ways you need to follow his call and enjoy where he is leading.
7. **Mission: Our mission as Christians is to have rightly ordered intimacies. This means our great and high priority of each day is to know and be known by our Lord above all other things.**