



Week 5 // Parenthood

In this Post-Easter series we explore the first Epistle written by Jesus' disciple John. This love-filled letter prompts us to explore five distinct stages of life in Christ: spiritual death, infancy, childhood, young adulthood, and reproducing parenthood. Learn to identify the stage of someone's spiritual growth based upon the key phrases they use. This series is sure to lead to self-reflection and greater growth toward spiritual maturity.

Connect

- 1) Describe a time you were in a position to teach someone something. What were you teaching? What went well? What did not go so well?
- 2) What was the reason you were in a teaching position? Did you seek it out or was it a requirement of you?

Digging Deeper

- 3) The concept of an apprenticeship was far more popular previously in history, but still exists today. It is an arrangement where someone learns an art, trade, or job under someone with experience. What is the benefit of learning from someone in this type of setting? What can be a draw back to it?
- 4) Throughout Scripture, you see the concept of an apprenticeship in how the people of God grew as prophets and leaders. Open your Bible to 1 Samuel. Look over Chapter 1 and 2 to gain an understanding of where we are at. If we are looking at the concept of apprenticeship, what role does Samuel have and what role does Eli have?
- 5) Read 1 Samuel 3:1-5. Who initiated the conversation between God and Samuel? What was the disconnect there? How might we experience the same type of confusion in a conversation with God?

- 6) Read 1 Samuel 3:6-8. This same pattern continues. Why do you think Eli was unable to recognize it was God calling out to him? Has there been a time where you feel God was speaking directly to you, but in the moment you were not able to hear or understand it?
- 7) Read 1 Samuel 3:9-10. Why was Eli so important in God speaking to Samuel? What would have happened to Samuel if he had not had someone further along in his or her faith to guide him?
- 8) Read 1 Samuel 3:11-21. Eli trained up Samuel and then God began something even greater through Samuel. Why was Eli so important? How can we position ourselves to be Eli to someone?

Live It Out

- 9) In 1 Samuel 2, we see God let Eli know that his bloodline was going to be removed from the role of speaking on behalf of the Lord. The promise became that someone else would be used and would do mighty things, which became Samuel. How do you think Eli was able to stay humble and still commit to training Samuel and not become bitter? How can we be excited to see God do something amazing through the life of someone else and commit to a role of training them for it?

Lifting it up

Pray for those that have invested in you and helped you grow in your faith to get to this point today. Pray then for those that God has put in your path for you to train and help grow in their faith, like Eli helped to train Samuel.