

## Growth Group Reflection Questions—March 28-April 3

1. Do you agree that everyone wants to soar in life?

Follow up: What does the Bible say about much worldly soaring? (Isaiah 40:6)  
How does “soaring in significance” last forever? (1 Cor. 3:12-14).

2. Darren talked about the need to dig out time and space for God *by force*, because of our ultra-busy postmodern world. Do you agree?

3. Read Prov. 29:18, a verse that paints a scary picture of what happens when the Word of God disappears from society. What does the verse say? Do you see examples in our own community?

4. The second part of Eli’s excellent advice to Samuel (and to us!) is to give God his undivided attention. This is easier said than done. Looking at your own life, what do you ordinarily tend to fill in this blank with: “Speak, Lord, your servant is \_\_\_\_\_.” Be honest!

5. Darren quoted an author who wrote the following: “*How hard for us to understand the greatness of God’s lowliness and the lowliness of His greatness. But it’s precisely this quality that makes Him able, available, and ready to hear and to speak personally with His creatures.*” How is God’s greatness seen in His lowliness? How does this aspect of Christian truth differ from other religions?

6. Remember Darren’s stroller story. Have you ever pushed the “stroller of your soul” so hard that the wheels either got very loose, or popped off all together?

7. Review the three “balloons” that Darren encouraged us to fill up and defend with all of our might. What does each balloon represent and what forces in your life threaten to puncture them?

A. Balloon #1 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Balloon #2 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Balloon #3 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Darren said that the “Bible is not something you just listen to, but something that you listen *through*.” Discuss this statement.

**Just like that balloon, everyone wants to soar \_\_\_\_\_ in life.**

**There’s a higher soaring that you hope for, higher than worldly success, and it’s soaring in significance \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.*

**1 Samuel 3:1**

*When there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.*

**Proverbs 29:18**

*One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.*

**1 Samuel 3:2**

*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.*

**1 Samuel 3:3**

*For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.*

**Psalms 18:28**

*Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” 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.*

**1 Samuel 3:4-5**

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."

**1 Samuel 3:6**

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

**1 Samuel 3:7**

The LORD call Samuel a third time, 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.

**1 Samuel 3:8**

So Eli told Samuel, "Go lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**1 Samuel 3:9**

### Eli's Excellent Advice

1. Give God a **\_respectful\_** attitude.

2. Give God your **\_undivided\_** attention.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**1 Samuel 3:10**

The take off point for Samuel was when he takes time out to

**\_listen\_** to God.

If you want to soar, not superficially, but in real significance, you

have to listen too. You have to listen **\_up\_**.

### Three Ways to "Listen Up"

1. Dig out **\_time\_** and **\_space\_** for God.

"Come to me with your ears wide open . . ."

**Isaiah 55:3a**

### Fill up and defend three "balloons!"

A. Big group balloon.

B. Growth Group balloon.

Get into a growth group by going to:

[www.santacruz bible.org/growthgroups](http://www.santacruz bible.org/growthgroups)

C. Solo balloon.

"Do you . . . DDP?"

2. Break out your "spiritual **\_stethoscope\_**," the Bible.

The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

**1 Samuel 3:21**

The Bible isn't just something you just listen **\_to\_**, but

something that you listen **\_through\_**.

3. Bank away your **\_insights\_**, ideas and inspiration.

"How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"

**Psalms 139:17a**