



There are moments when we meet God in a new way. After these moments, we exchange a concept for an encounter. When God shows up, it's not to show us what He looks like, but to show us what He is like. In the Old Testament, God shows up to young and old, to men and women. Let's look at these encounters and ask Him to continuing showing up in our lives.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Kick off your discussion with these two icebreakers - if someone wakes you up in the middle of the night, can you be alert pretty quickly or are you in a fog for a while? In the morning, do you get out of bed at the first alarm, or do you use the snooze button?

**2** **Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10.** In this scene, we see that **God is patient and persistent.** How has God been patient and persistent with you? How does Samuel's stumbling start as a prophet encourage you?

**3** Verse 7 says that Samuel didn't know the Lord. In this scene, he matures in faith because he is no longer dependent on Eli. How do we balance learning from others without growing dependent on them? What makes it difficult to choose direct dependence on God?

**4** **Read 1 Samuel 3:11-18.** We want God to speak, but sometimes we're uncomfortable with what He has to say. We see here that **God's word will not be broken.** How do we wrestle with God's patience alongside His perfect and unfailing Word? How can we trust Him in how we receive hard truths?

**5** **Read 1 Samuel 3:19-21.** Samuel's success as a prophet is totally depended upon God. The same is true for us as Christians and as His church. In what ways are Samuel's experience of God's Word different from ours? In what ways are they the same?

**6** **Read John 1:14.** **God reveals himself through His Word** - and the Word made flesh is Jesus. How did Jesus come in grace and truth? How can we remain dependent upon Him and attentive to His Spirit in our lives?

