



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 28, 2018

This Week's Focus: *Worthless Sons, Faithful God*

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 2:11-36

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What role did Hophni and Phinehas serve for the nation of Israel? Why are they described as "worthless men"? What was their "very great" sin? What is ironic about the use of the word "worthless"? Reference 1 Samuel 1:16, 2:12.
- What are some ways that we today treat worship with contempt? Discuss how the following two principles can guide us into proper worship of God.
 - God-centered worship
 - Content-driven worship
- How did God graciously bless Hannah? Reference verse 21. Share some ways that God has recently blessed you by his gracious gifts or by his faithful presence in your life.
- Contrast Samuel's lifestyle with the Eli's sons. Reference verses 11-12, 17-18, 21. Contrast how God responded to Samuel's faithfulness and to Hophni and Phinehas' rebellion.
- Why was Eli's rebuke too little, too late? Reference verse 25. Discuss how Hophni and Phinehas' hardness of heart was both their own choice (human responsibility) and the result of God's just judgement (sovereignty of God). Reference Romans 1:18-25, 28-32. Since only God "looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7), how should we treat those who appear callous toward the grace of God? Reference Colossians 4:5-6.

- What was Eli's chief sin? Reference verse 29. What principles of godly parenting can we learn from this passage? What are you prone to honor (idolize) above God who alone is worthy of worship?
- Read verse 26 and compare with Luke 2:52. Why do you think Luke deliberately referenced 1 Samuel 2:26 in his description of the young Jesus?
- What does the unnamed prophet prophesy to Eli about God's impending judgement (verses 27-34)? What is the message of God's grace in the prophesy (verses 35-36)? Discuss how Jesus is the better Prophet, Priest, and King. Reference Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:23-27, 10:11-12.