

CONVERSION

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Introduction

Stage 1: _____

- Sinful _____
- Superficial _____

Stage 2: The _____

Stage 3: The _____

Stage 4: The _____

- Commitment to God's _____
- Commitment to God's _____
- Commitment to God's _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1 . What are some of the qualities you look for in a good friend? What sorts of qualities do you think God is looking for in those who consider themselves to be his friends? (Hint: Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and 13:13, 14.)
- 2 . Our new "A Heart for God" sermon series tracks with CCC's Bible Savvy reading schedule. What are the benefits of following this schedule each day? What obstacles keep you from doing so--and how could you overcome them?
- 3 . Read 1 Samuel 2:12 thru 3:3, 7. What were the negative influences that kept Samuel from a relationship with God? This sermon identifies sinful culture and superficial religion as influences that keep us from surrendering to Christ. What role did these negative influences play in your initial decision to follow Jesus?
- 4 . Read 1 Samuel 3:4-10. Why do you think it took Samuel so long to figure out that it was God who was calling him? What means did God use to initially call you to follow Christ? How long did it take you to discern that it was God calling? Explain.
- 5 . How have we watered down the meaning of "believe" when it comes to faith in Christ? What does "believe" mean in the New Testament? What do Luke 9:23-26 and Romans 10:9 say about a decision to follow Jesus?
- 6 . Why does CCC use the word "surrender" to describe the beginning of a relationship with Jesus? What word does Samuel use in 3:10 to indicate his surrender to God? What is included in the meaning of Samuel's word?
- 7 . Read 1 Samuel 3:11 thru 4:1. What three commitments does the sermon note in Samuel's life as evidence that points to the genuineness of his conversion? What are the parallels in the life of a true Christ follower? If you don't see evidence of these three commitments in your life, how would you diagnose your situation (i.e. what needs to happen)?
- 8 . How might you approach a loved one or friend who claims to be a Christ follower but doesn't show much evidence of such? (Note: This is a fairly common occurrence, so give careful thought to your response.)

PRAYER PROMPT: Reread 1 Samuel 3:4-10. As you read it, use all of your senses to imagine the scene. After you read, pray "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Then spend time prayerfully listening to see how the Spirit speaks during your time. Share your experience with the group afterwards.