

# Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 2 June 2024

## BEING OPEN TO GOD

### Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Lord God, we marvel at your love for all your creation. When Jesus sees us, he has compassion; his ministry within our church bears his name and we must remember that we were born out of compassion. We offer our gifts to continue the work of compassion, but more than this, we offer ourselves, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

**Q 1 Do you ever believe there can be peace on Earth? Please discuss openly and honestly.**

### Worship 🎵 Suggestions

All over the World the Spirit is moving  
For I'm building a people of power  
What a friend we have in Jesus

### Word; 📖 Psalm 139

<sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

<sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

<sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

<sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

<sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

## **Word; 1 Samuel 3.1-20 The LORD Calls Samuel**

<sup>3</sup> The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. <sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" 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. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. <sup>12</sup> At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, <sup>16</sup> but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes." <sup>19</sup> The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

**COMMENTARY** It was the listening that made the difference. Eli came to the conclusion that God was speaking to Samuel. Maybe the reason God's Word is not heard was that the one who was supposed to listen was not listening. And just maybe that is true in life.

**Q 2 What do you think it means to be open to God?**

**Q 3 God can work through us anytime regardless of our status, age or condition? What does this mean for you?**

**Q 4 Do you think you have ever heard God calling you?**

**Works** How can we use our gifts this week for the good of others?

**Ending Prayer** (please pray together)

Lord God, we feel your presence, your spiritual energy of all creation, knowing you formed us as a mason works stone into things of beauty, living stones which reflect Your glory, given water from the rock and the bread from heaven above, Amen.

**Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)**