

Exploring *Lives* that Made a Difference in God's Kingdom





A young boy with dark hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting up in bed. He is looking towards the right side of the frame. The bed has a white pillow and a green blanket. To the left of the bed is a small wooden table with a brown bowl on it. To the right is a wooden chair with a blue basin on it. The room has a stone wall and a window with a decorative lattice pattern. The window shows a dark blue night sky with a few white stars. The title "The Calling of Samuel" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, stylized font with a blue outline. The word "The" is smaller and positioned above "Calling". The word "Samuel" is the largest and has several white snowflake icons scattered around it.

The Calling of Samuel

Hearing & Following the Calling of God



Hearing God's Call

Is all about location

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.

1 Samuel 3:3

Fact 1: Samuel was where God was.

Fact 2: The light had not gone out.

Fact 3: Samuel was living in that light.



Hearing God's Call

Means Knowing God's Voice (1 Samuel 3:4-8)

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



Hearing God's Call

Means Knowing God's Voice

The Lord had to call Samuel four times

Samuel had never actually heard the voice of God

He did respond he just went to the wrong person

It took the seasoned follower three tries before he could instruct Samuel

Adults we have a responsibility to these kids to guide them



Hearing God's Call

It was a Personal Call

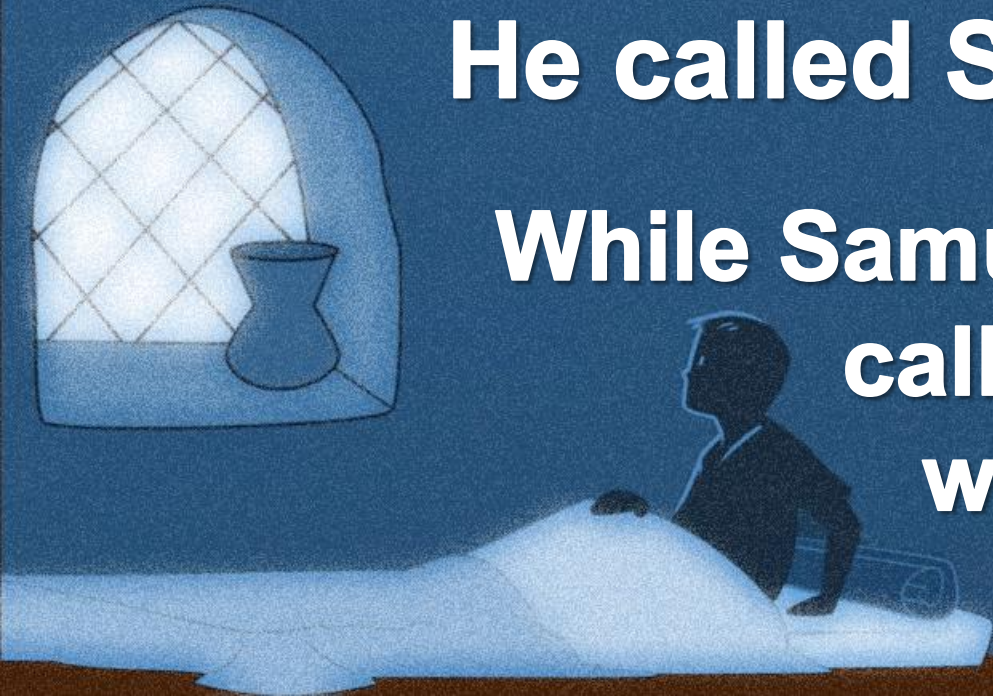
God did not ask for a volunteer

He did not say "Hey You!"

"Samuel!"

He called Samuel by name

While Samuel had not a clue who was calling him, God knew exactly who he was looking for



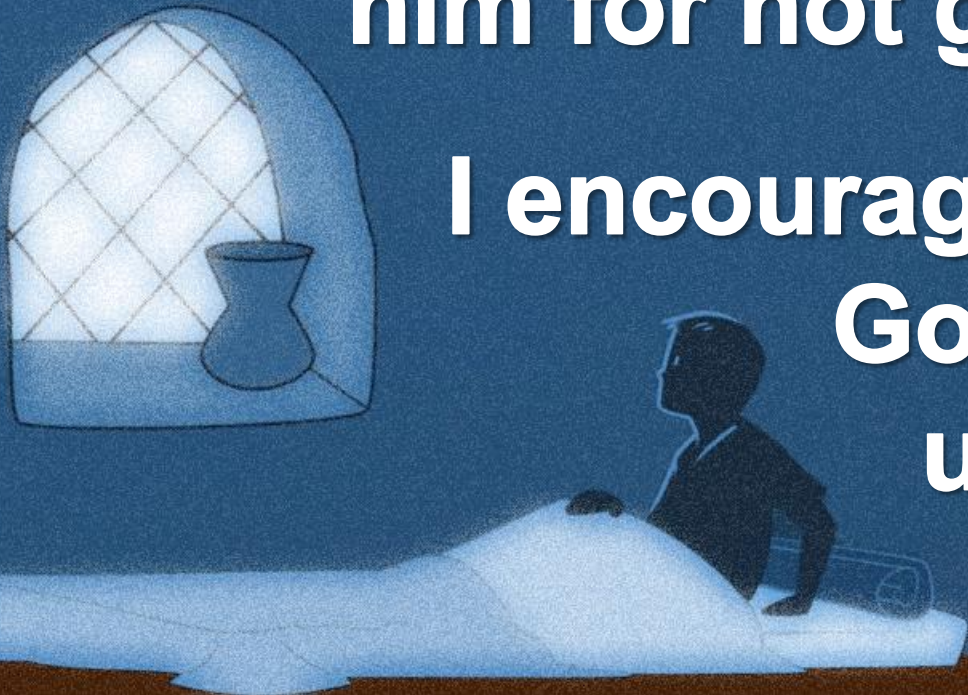
Hearing God's Call

It was a Persistent Call

God did just try once and give up on Samuel

When Samuel figured it out, God did not scold him for not getting the first three right.

I encourage you to never hang up on God, but I also remind you that until it is over, God will not disconnect from you.





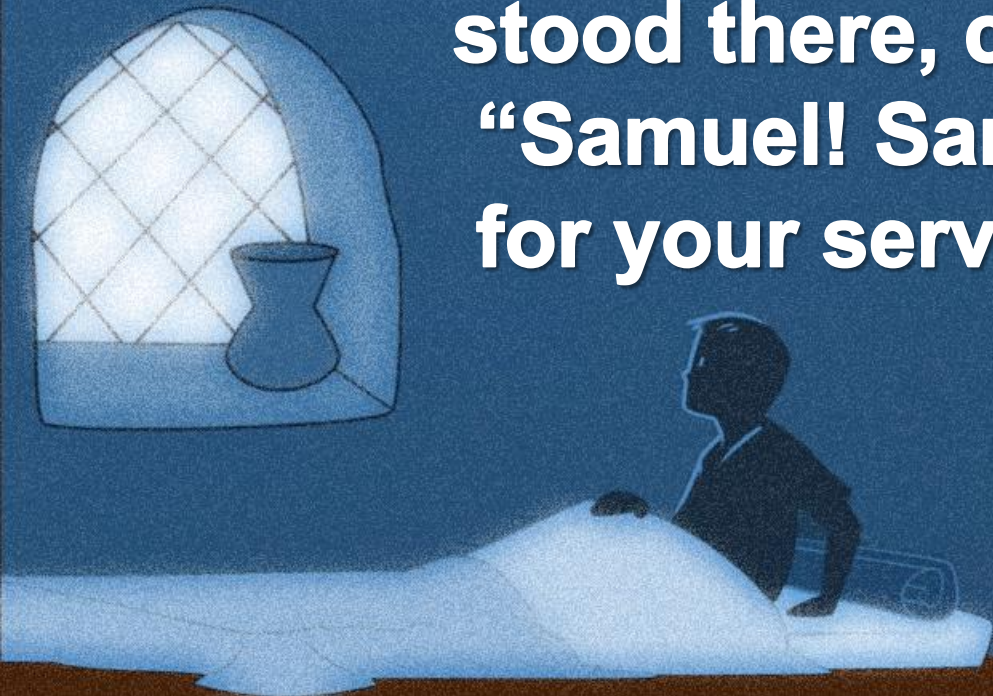
Responding to God's Call

Responding to God's Call

Begins with Availability

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. 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 3:9-10



Responding to God's Call

Begins with Availability

“Speak for your Servant is Listening.”

The Lord came and stood there

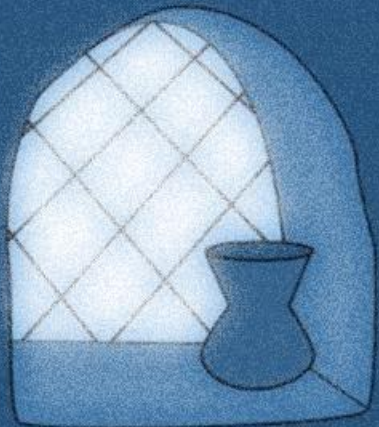
When Samuel was ready to
listen, God came close

You speak I listen

You are in charge; I am your servant



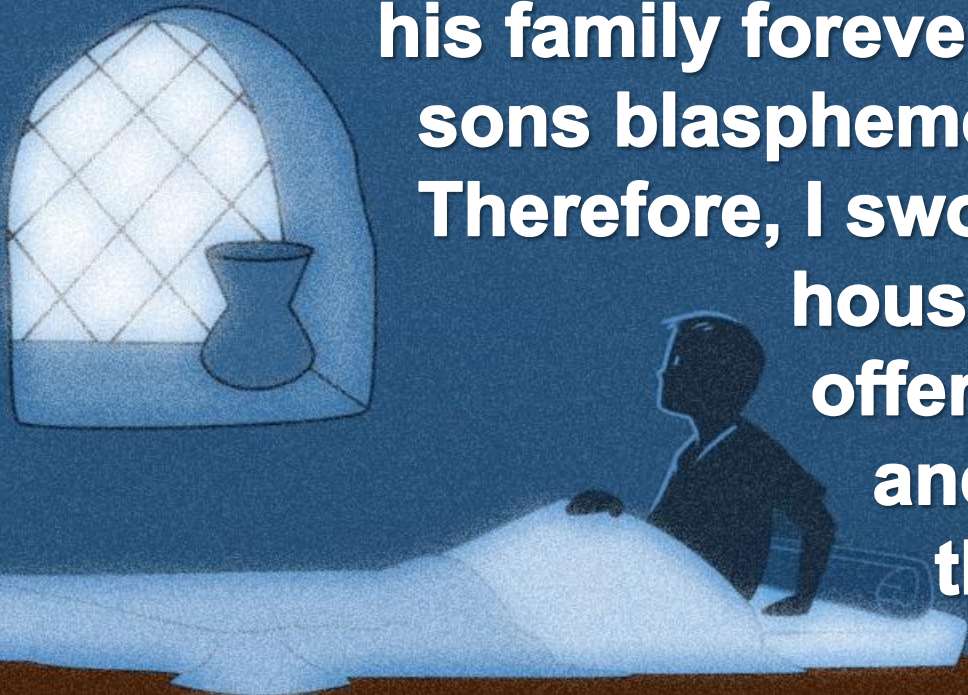
Humble



Responding to God's Call

Accepting a Difficult Message

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. At that time, I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 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. Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision



Responding to God's Call

Accepting a Difficult Message

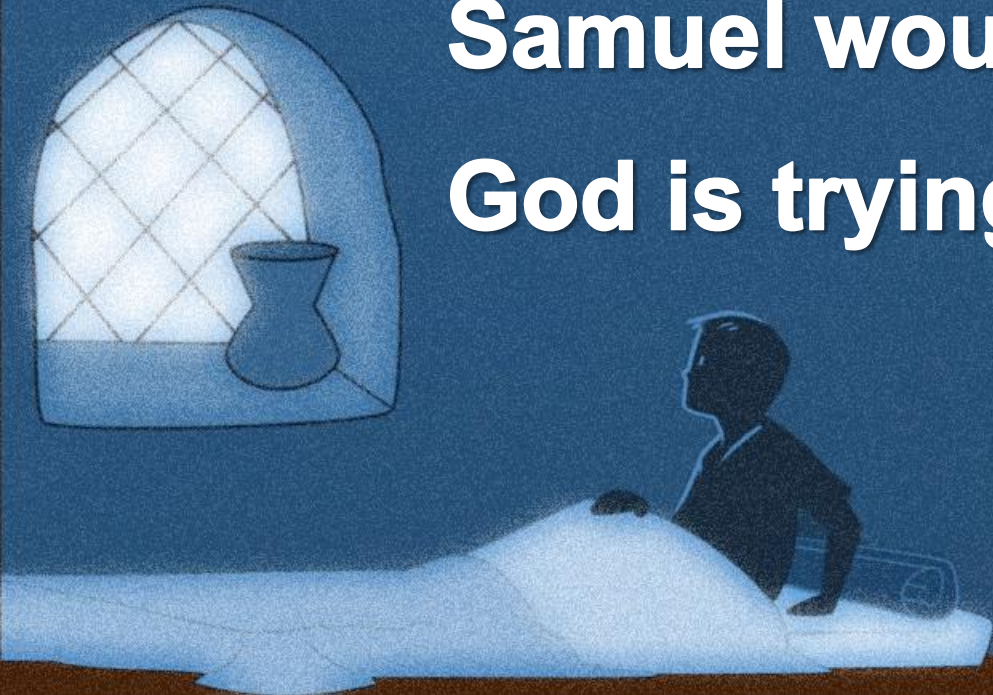
God was Going to Deal with Sin

Specifically, Eli's sin.

Samuel would be Eli's replacement

God is trying to get the nation's attention

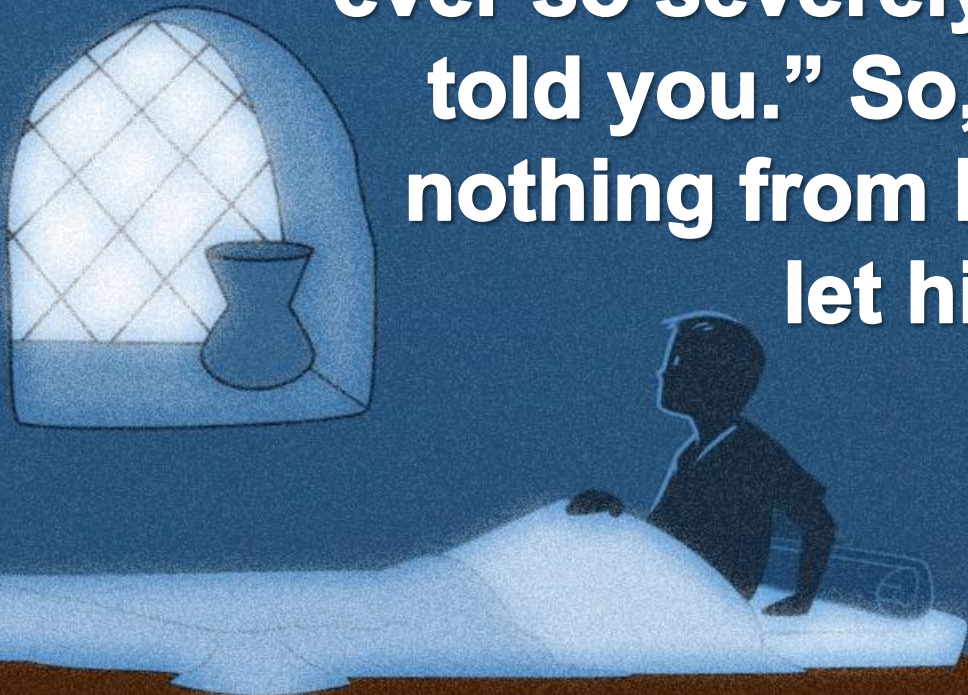
Struggling



Responding to God's Call

Sharing God's Word

but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." "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." 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."



1 Samuel 3:16-18

Responding to God's Call

Sharing God's Word

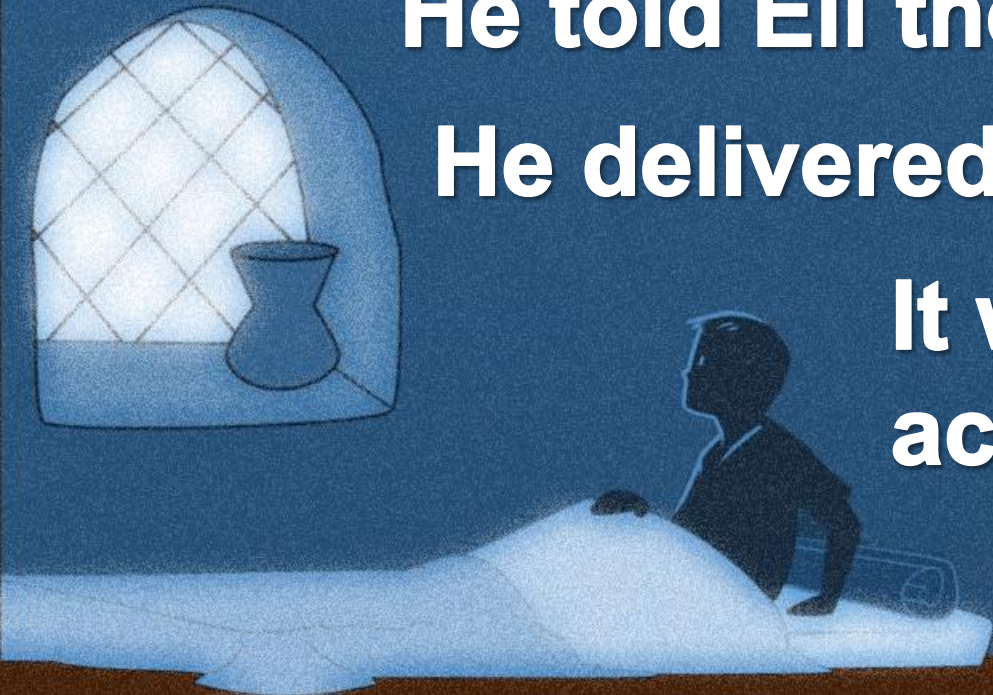
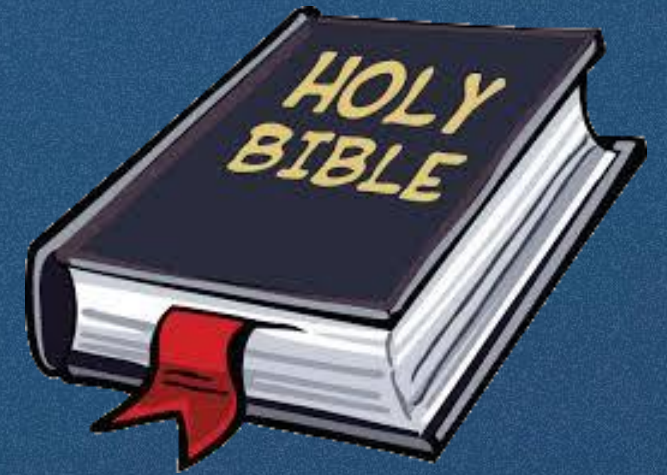
That is not how you respond to God's calling

He told Eli the truth

He told Eli the entire truth

He delivered God's message

It was not enough to receive and accept, he had to deliver the message



Living God's Calling

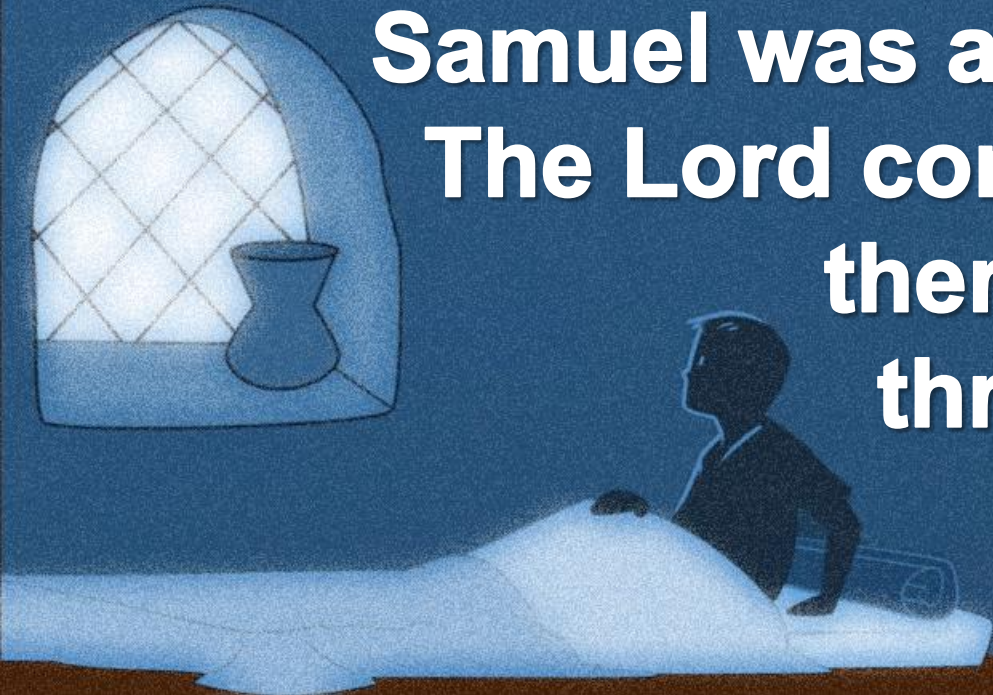
Will Take You into the Unknown

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that

Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

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

1 Samuel 3:19-21



Living God's Calling

Will Take You into the Unknown

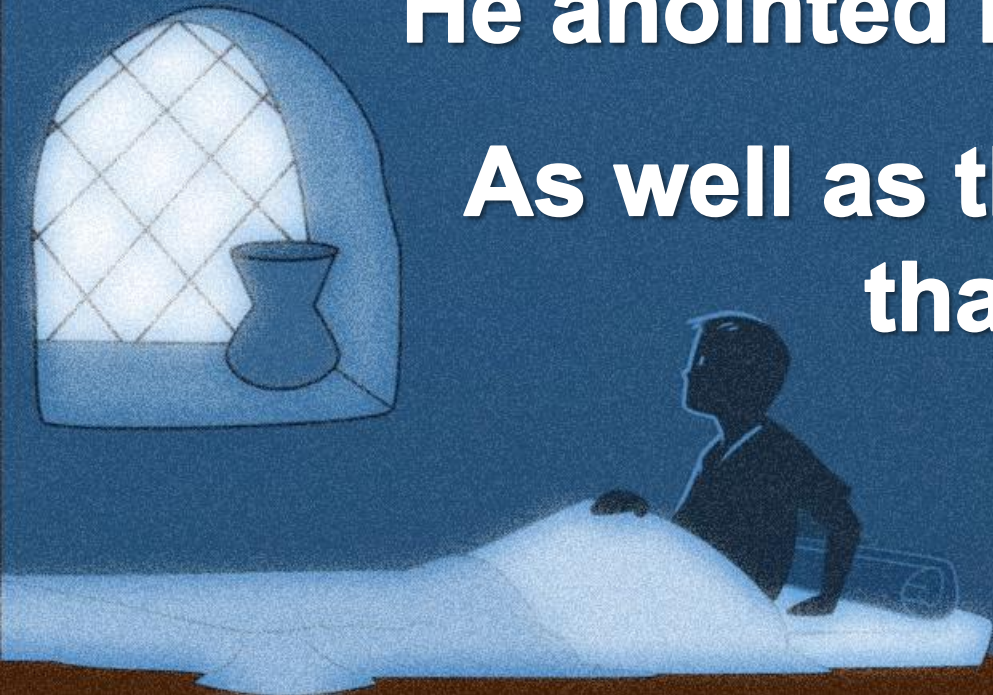
He grew Up

He became a powerful prophet

He anointed Israel's first king

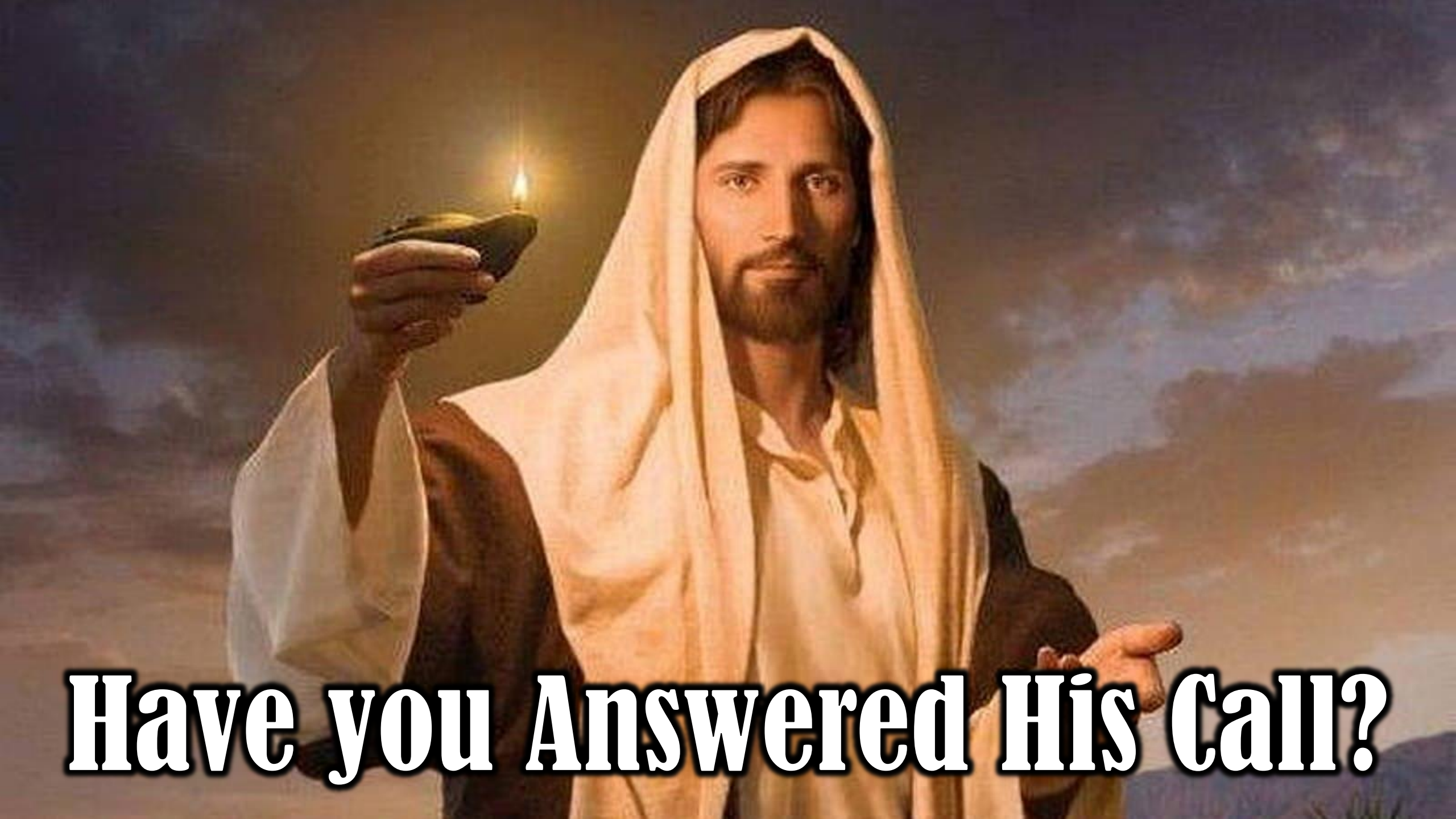
As well as the king after God's own heart
that led to Jesus

He continued to powerfully
proclaim God's word



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a white nightgown with a yellow sash, stands in a bedroom with her hands clasped in prayer. She is looking upwards with a serene expression. The room features a bed with a teal blanket and a wooden headboard, a window with a blue night sky and stars, and a coat hanging on a rack in the background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Hearing God's Call
Responding to God's Call
Living God's Calling



Have you Answered His Call?