



Small Group Discussion Questions

Following the Weekend of August 8-9, 2026

No need to answer every question. Feel free to jump around.

Who Will You Honor?

(1 Samuel 2:12-36)

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

Group Interaction & Application

Read aloud together 1 Samuel 2:12-36.

What words, phrases, concepts, or images from these verses stand out to you as you just read them, or create curiosity for you in some way?

What aspects of Pastor Alan's message gave you fresh insight into this passage, or helped you the most in understanding these verses and what we experience here?

In this chapter, we encounter three different responses to God through the lives of Eli's sons, Eli, and Samuel.

When you hear the word *honor*, what comes to mind? Who is someone you've known that truly honored God?

Pastor Alan defined honor as giving someone or something *weight* or *importance* - what matters most in your heart. How does that definition deepen your understanding of honor?

Read again 1 Sam 2:12-17. What kind of corruption were Eli's sons involved in? What do you think was happening in their hearts?

Why do you think it was difficult for them to give God their first and best?

In what areas of life do you find it tempting to put yourself first - whether with your time, resources, priorities, preferences, or something else?

What might those moments reveal about what is carrying the greatest weight in your heart?

Read 1 Sam 2:22-25 and 29. Eli wasn't participating in everything his sons were doing, but he benefited from it and refused to act.

Where can passivity become disobedience?

Have you experienced situations where staying silent or avoiding action felt easier than doing what was right? What made it difficult to respond differently?

Looking back, where do you think that path was leading you?

Throughout this story, we see two different ways of dishonoring God: open rebellion (Eli's sons) and passive compromise (Eli). Which of these do you relate to more, and why?

Pastor Alan challenged us to ask what carries the greatest weight in our hearts. Right now, what competes most for that place in your life? (For example: comfort, success, approval, relationships, finances, your own plans, etc.)

As you've reflected on that, what have you learned about yourself? Have you seen the impact of giving those things greater weight than God?

In contrast to Eli and his sons, we see that Samuel grew up in the same corrupt environment but wasn't shaped by it (1 Samuel 2:11, 18-21, 26).

What helped Samuel remain faithful and become a man who honored the Lord? What does his example teach us about following Jesus today?

Pastor Alan reminded us that the answer isn't simply trying harder. Samuel's life was shaped by continually living in the presence of the Lord. As we return to Jesus, honoring Him becomes something we *want* to do, not just something we *should* do.

Have you ever experienced that kind of heart change simply from spending time with Jesus? What was that like?

Why do you think willpower alone often isn't enough to produce lasting change?

What is one practical way you can intentionally cultivate God's presence this week and allow Him to become the greatest weight in your heart?

Conclude by praying for one another in taking practical next steps in applying this weekend's message and group discussion, after which pray for group needs and concerns.

Messages are available audio or video on our App or at cccgreeley.org.