

God Calls Little Samuel
January 4, 2015

What happens when we don't follow God and lead our families to do the same?
How can we avoid the pitfalls of Eli and his family?

1) **Honor and follow God above all**

Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people? **1 Samuel 2:29 (NKJV)**

Let nothing take the place or the value of **loving** God and **serving** Him with all you have in obedience to Him and His Word.

Getting totally "off the path" happens one step at a time, many **little** steps piled together = a great **chasm!**

2) **Lead your family, parents, specifically men!**

Eli's sons got off the path and he didn't seek to stop them or remove them from ministering before the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22

How do we lead our families? By first following and seeking God **ourselves!**

Ways to follow and lead our families:

Read and seek God's **Word**

Prayer

Worshiping with other **believers** –commitment to God's **Church**

Accountability and **Community** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

3) **Heed the warnings**

1st- Slap on the **wrist** warning- lack of seriousness (1 Sam 2:23-25)

2nd- Man of **God** (1 Sam 2:27-30)

3rd- **Samuel**- (1 Sam 3:13-21)

Don't ignore flashing **warning** lights! When something seems to be wrong or goes wrong, attend to it! Feed your soul!

Don't look to the left or to the right, stay the **course**, and if you get off course, jump right back on!

4) **Note the consequences**

Priesthood taken from Eli's family- 1 Sam 2:30

Family will die young- 1 Sam 2:32

Sin not atoned for- 1 Sam 3:14

God uses all of this to raise Samuel up for His purposes. Through all this, notice what Samuel was doing:

And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men. 1 Sam 2:26 (NKJV).
God was rising up another leader to take the reigns.

As moms and dads, grandparents, aunt and uncles, and brothers and sisters, we are to follow God and at the same time, lead our families. But most specifically, it should be our **husbands and dads**, because so much is on the line. Are you following God? Are you leading your family? Have there been warning signals and are you listening to them?