



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### **Are Parents Responsible for Their Children's Behavior? September 15-17, 2018**

*(1 Samuel 3:8-14) The LORD called Samuel a third time, 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. {9} 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. {10} The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." {11} And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. {12} At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family--from beginning to end. {13} For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. {14} Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"*

\*\* The sermon was based on the entire Biblical account of Eli. For reference, read 1 Samuel 2:12-4:18

1. Have you ever had to deal with someone in authority (police, school official, etc.) because of the misbehavior of your child (or family member)? How did it make you feel?

2. Agree/disagree: People judge parents by their children.

3. Agree/disagree: Parents have no responsibility for the behavior of their children.

4. What sin did Eli's sons commit that was "very great in the Lord's sight" (cf. 1 Sam. 2:17)? What would be a 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent of that sin?

5. Evaluate Eli's rebuke of his sons' behavior—strong points and weak points (cf. 1 Sam. 2:23-25).

6. Did God hold Eli accountable for the sins his sons committed? Why/why not? (cf. 1 Sam. 2:27-31)

7. Read 1 Sam: 3:11-13. What additional sin did God hold Eli accountable for?

8. Agree/disagree: God doesn't hold us accountable for sins we didn't commit. Is this fact good news or bad? (Law or Gospel?)

9. Agree/disagree: God holds someone else accountable for the sins we've committed. Good news or bad? (Law or Gospel?)

10. Eli was an imperfect parent. Can you find any evidence that he was still a believer? (cf. 1 Sam. 3:8,18,19; 4:13,18)