

Hineni – Here I Am! The Call to Action
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Reflective Questions:

- Did you ever feel a call to get involved? If so, describe it.
- What makes you say ‘no’ to a request? What makes you say ‘yes’?
- How do you inspire others to say ‘yes’ to a call to action?

Jewish Texts:

Midrash Rabba, Deuteronomy 7:8

The rabbis said: You find that when God gave the Torah to Moses, He gave it to him after ‘calling.’ How do we know this? Since it is said, “And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mount; and Moses went up” (Exodus 19:20). Also Moses our teacher, when he came to repeat the Torah to Israel, said to them: “Just as I received the Torah with ‘calling’ so too will I hand it over to God’s children with ‘calling.’ From where do we know this? From what is written in the context: “And Moses **called** to all of Israel and said to them...”

What Happens When You Don’t Know Who is Calling You to Leadership?

I Samuel 3:1-21

וְהַנְּעִיר שְׁמוּאֵל מִשְׁרַת אֶת־יְהוָה לִפְנֵי עָלִי וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה יְקָר בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם אֲזַי חֲזוֹן נִפְרָץ:
וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַהוּא וְעָלִי שָׁכַב בְּמַקְוֹ וְעֵינָיו [וְעֵינָיו] הִתְּלוּ כִהְיוֹת לֹא יוּכַל לְרְאוֹת: וַגֵּר אֱלֹהִים
טָרַם יִכְבֶּה וְשְׁמוּאֵל שָׁכַב בְּהִיכַל יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם אֲרוֹן אֱלֹהִים: וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֶל־שְׁמוּאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר
הַנְּנִי: וַיִּרֶץ אֶל־עָלִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי כִי־קָרָאתָ לִי וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא־קָרָאתִי שׁוּב וַיִּלֶּךְ וַיִּשְׁכַּב: וַיִּסָּף
יְהוָה קִרְא עוֹד שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּקָּם שְׁמוּאֵל וַיִּלֶּךְ אֶל־עָלִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי כִי קָרָאתָ לִי וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא־קָרָאתִי
כִּנִּי שׁוּב שָׁכַב: וְשְׁמוּאֵל טָרַם יַדַּע אֶת־יְהוָה וְטָרַם יִגְלֶה אֵלָיו דְּבַר־יְהוָה: וַיִּסָּף יְהוָה קִרְא־
שְׁמוּאֵל בְּשִׁלְשִׁית וַיִּקָּם וַיִּלֶּךְ אֶל־עָלִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי כִי קָרָאתָ לִי וַיִּבֹן עָלָיו כִּי יְהוָה קִרְא לַנְּעִיר:
וַיֹּאמֶר עָלִי לְשְׁמוּאֵל לָךְ שָׁכַב וְהָיָה אִם־יִקְרָא אֵלָיִךְ וְאַמְרָתְ דְּבַר יְהוָה כִּי שָׁמַע עֲבָדְךָ וַיִּלֶּךְ

וַיִּשְׁכַּב בְּמִקְוָמוֹ: וַיָּבֹא יְהוָה וַיִּתְיַצֵּב וַיִּקְרָא כַּפְעַם-כַּפְעַם שְׁמוּאֵל ׀ שְׁמוּאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר
 שְׁמוּאֵל דָּבָר כִּי שָׁמַע עֲבָדְךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל הֲנֵה אֲנֹכִי עֹשֶׂה דְבָר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר כָּל-
 שְׁמֹעוֹ תִצְלִינָה שְׁתֵּי אָזְנוֹי: בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶקְרִים אֶל-עַלְי אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ הַחֵל
 וְכִלָּה: וְהִגַּדְתִּי לוֹ כִּי-שִׁפְט אֲנִי אֶת-בֵּיתוֹ עַד-עוֹלָם בְּעוֹן אֲשֶׁר-יָדַע כִּי-מִקְלָלִים לָהֶם בָּנוּי וְלֹא
 כָּהֵן בָּם: וְלָכֵן נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְבַיִת עַלְי אִם-יִתְפָּאֵר עוֹן בֵּית-עַלְי בְּזִבְחָה וּבְמִנְחָה עַד-עוֹלָם: וַיִּשְׁכַּב
 שְׁמוּאֵל עַד-הַבֹּקֶר וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת-דִּלְתוֹת בֵּית-יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמוּאֵל יָרָא מֵהִגִּיד אֶת-הַמְּרָאָה אֶל-עַלְי:
 וַיִּקְרָא עַלְי אֶת-שְׁמוּאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל בְּנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר מָה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּר אֵלַיךָ
 אֵל-יְיָ תַכְחֹד מִמֶּנִּי כֹה יַעֲשֶׂה-לְךָ אֱלֹהִים וְכֹה יוֹסִיף אִם-תִּכְחַד מִמֶּנִּי דְבָר מִכָּל-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-
 דִּבַּר אֵלַיךָ: וַיִּגְדֵּל שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת-כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים וְלֹא כִחַד מִמֶּנּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הוּא הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיו
 יַעֲשֶׂה: וַיִּגְדַּל שְׁמוּאֵל וַיְהוֶה הָיָה עִמּוֹ וְלֹא-הִפִּיל מִכָּל-דְּבָרָיו אַרְצָה: וַיִּדַע כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִזֶּן וְעַד-
 בְּאֵר שָׁבַע כִּי נֶאֱמַן שְׁמוּאֵל לְנַבִּיא לַיהוָה:
 וַיִּסָּף יְהוָה לְהִרְאֶה בְּשִׁלְהָ כִּי-נִגְלָה יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל בְּשִׁלּוֹ בַדְּבָר יְהוָה:

1 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. 2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 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. 6 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." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8 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.'" 15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, 16 but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." 17 "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." 18 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." 19 The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. 21 The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word

Leadership Texts:

A mentor is simply someone who helps someone else learn something that he or she would have learned less well, more slowly or not at all, if left alone. Notice the power-free nature of this definition! Mentors are not power figures. Mentors are learning coaches – sensitive, trusted advisors...Mentoring from a partnership perspective means, "We are fellow travelers on this journey toward wisdom."

John Garner, *On Leadership*