



# THE CALL OF SAMUEL

## Art Reflection

### PAINTING INFORMATION

- 1780 Painting of Samuel Reading to Eli the Judgments of God Upon Eli's House
- John Singleton Copley [Public domain]
- Neoclassicism portrays ideal virtues which impart a moral message.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What are the physical positions of Eli and Samuel?
  - What do Eli's hand gestures communicate?
  - What does his facial expression tell us?
- Notice the incense - what does this represent?
- Symbolism:
  - Burning of incense - zeal and fervour
  - Fragrance - virtue
  - Rising smoke - rising of our prayers to Heaven
  - The child Samuel is dressed in white - a symbol of holiness.
  - Think about the use of light - often used to show the presence of God.
- Eli is giving Samuel his full attention, perhaps exclaiming in surprise at what the child has to say. Do you give God your full attention, do you hear His call?
- Symbolism of Samuel's pointed hand - he points to heaven, the message he is relaying is directly from God.
- Notice the differences in how Eli and Samuel are dressed. What does this tell us about the people God chooses to use?
- Think about the title of this painting and the fact this is Samuel's initial calling. What hard truths does God communicate to us? Are we willing to listen? Are we willing to change?