

**An  
Introduction  
to NWYM's  
E.L.I. Program**

**“Every-day Life  
Investment”**

**October**

**Sponsored by  
Northwest Yearly Meeting**

**Hello ELI!**

**Thank you for joining us in the Samuel School I. We are determined to support you in your new commitment to make a positive impact on the life of a young person in your church. Just as Samuel had an adult who instructed him in the ways of the temple, the youth involved in Samuel School need adults who will help them “bring home” their experiences.**

**Begun in 1983, Samuel School is designed to identify and encourage junior high youth, who are leaders in our churches, equip them to hear and obey God's voice, and connect them with adults in their local meetings.**

**The model for the retreat, as the name indicates, is the biblical story of Samuel, who as a child heard and responded to the voice of God. Your role as an adult ELI parallels the relationship between the young Samuel and his mentor. (Our program is open to "Samuels" and "ELIs" being either male or female!)**

**Obviously there were things in Eli's life that weren't so respectable and that we don't want you to emulate. However we do hope you will serve as a significant adult in the youth's life for the next six months to encourage their continued growth. We hope a longer-term relationship might be built as well.**

**So far this probably sounds pretty intimidating, We hope to diffuse some of that with this flyer. We have made "Eli" into an acronym that stands for "Every-day Life Investment." That doesn't mean that you'll be involved with your Samuel's life every day, but that you can have significant impact on his or her life through every-day activities. Youth are curious and scared about what an adult Christian lifestyle should be like. They compare their own ups and downs to what happens on Sunday morning, and they fall way short. As an ELI, you can share some of what it means for you to be a Christian in "every-day life," helping them get a better grasp on their own situation and future growth.**

**Just going out for ice cream or meeting in some other informal way on a regular basis is all that needs to take place for you to be in a position to significantly influence your Samuel. The sharing of your every-day life can greatly impact them.**

**Going through a discipleship book is not necessary. If such a structure would be helpful, you can contact me or your youthworker. But the important thing is to meet with them and let them know you care about them, and that you're available to share about life and your spiritual journey.**

**On the back of this letter I've included a list of the class titles that your Samuel attended while at Samuel School to give you an idea of topics they will encounter. We've also printed a suggested outline for your first meeting. Use what is helpful and forget the rest.**

## ***Our expectations for your role***

*as an ELI include:*

- a six-month commitment
- intentional contact with your Samuel every other week
- regular prayer for your Samuel
- an openness on your own behalf to sharing who God is in your life

Your Samuel attended Samuel School, October 7-9, at Quaker Hill in McCall, Idaho. We have included a counselor feedback form from your Samuel's counselor in order to give you some young adult insight concerning your Samuel's experience at Samuel School. But your best source will be your Samuel. We will discuss the ELI role at Samuel School, so it will be helpful that they know who you are. Let me encourage you to get together .

We welcome feedback and questions at any time. Please don't hesitate to give us or your local church a call if you are feeling overwhelmed or ill-equipped. Keep in mind that Christ's work in your own life is the best teacher you have.

Look forward to first ELI Papers to be a tool as you journey with your Samuel. These will come out on a monthly basis, and are designed to give you additional helps as you continue your relationship with your Samuel.

Thank You,

*Rachelle Staley*

### **Samuel School Classes:**

#### **Hearing the Will of God**

**What does "will" mean? Why is it important? What distracts me from hearing?**

#### **Creating Space for God**

**What ways do I like to spend time with God? How often should I do it? What's my responsibility in building that relationship?**

#### **Learning the Will of God through the Bible**

**How do I use the Bible to hear God?**

#### **Learning the Will of God through the Church**

**How does the corporate Body work together to speak God's will? How can I be supported by the church and become more integrated?**

#### **Communicating with God through Prayer**

**How do I develop a dialogue with Christ?**

**What techniques might be helpful for my spiritual personality?**

#### **Experiencing God In Worship**

**How can I be open to God speaking to me in Sunday worship? How can I make Sunday morning worship meaningful? How should I approach participating in worship?**

#### **Putting It All Together**

**Experiencing all of what we've discussed this weekend in a worship setting.**

## Your First Meeting

Feel free to use this as an outline for your first meeting together, or scrap it and follow your own intuition. Basically, in this first meeting, you want to break the ice a little and get to know one another. Let them know you will be praying for them.

Introduce yourself by each sharing:

- One thing you do when you have spare time.
- A place where you feel you can relax the best.
- A typical day's schedule.
- Your fears and expectations of being a mentor or being mentored.
  - Share with them about a conference or retreat where you learned something significant about God.
- Ask how it felt to be selected for this retreat. Do they feel like a leader among their peers?

Be sure to spend some time praying for your Samuel before you break up. Pray that God will prepare his or her heart to hear God.

Be sure to discuss when a good time might be to get together again. We encourage you to meet intentionally twice a month. Heading out for a coke, dropping in for an extra-curricular activity, etc.. You will be providing a role model of an adult Christian who cares, and of what it means to be an active, integrated follower of Christ. You won't be perfect, but you will be real. Design times when you can communicate effectively, even if it might occasionally mean a talk after Sunday school room following worship.

Thanks again for your willingness to invest 12-15 hours over the next six months. The rewards will be significant.

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