

## God, Parents, and Children

Where would you put your parents on the continuum? What about you?

Strict ←————→ Lenient

Read 1 Samuel 2:12-36.

1. What made Eli's sons so bad?
  - A. They consistently turned their backs on God.
  - B. They were PKs (priest's kids) and that creates lots of pressure.
  - C. Bad parenting by Eli.
  - D. No mother in their lives.
  - E. Social media constantly distracted them.
  - F. They seduced women who served at the Tabernacle.
  - G. They were gluttons.
  - H. They would only do things their way, with no consideration of others.
  - I. Other.
2. How did their behavior affect worship in Israel?
  - A. It had no effect.
  - B. Worshipers felt offended.
  - C. People stopped coming to the Tabernacle.
  - D. Worship participation increased.
  - E. Eli's sons carelessly broke the rules for sacrificial services.
  - F. People complained to Eli and his sons.
  - G. Physical force sometimes interrupted worship.
  - H. Eli did nothing about it.
  - I. Other.
3. How did Samuel fit into the picture?
  - A. Samuel was a perfect little boy, and a role model for Eli's older sons.
  - B. Eli became Samuel's surrogate parent.
  - C. Eli treated Samuel like his own son.
  - D. Eli changed his parenting practices with Samuel.
  - E. Samuel confronted Eli's sons.
  - F. Eli's sons picked on Samuel.
  - G. God provided Samuel to replace Eli and his evil sons.
  - H. Other.

4. What was the prophet's message to priest Eli?
  - A. Be more strict as a parent.
  - B. Be more lenient as a parent.
  - C. Follow your wife's advice.
  - D. Your sons are going to die before you die.
  - E. You guys are making poor choices.
  - F. You put your family ahead of God.
  - G. Samuel will replace your sons as the priest after you.
  - H. Other.
  
5. Why did God send such a stern message to Eli?
  - A. God's messages are usually very serious.
  - B. Eli had ignored God's previous messages, including the Torah.
  - C. This was God's attempt to get Eli's attention.
  - D. People don't notice when they gradually slide downward.
  - E. God sends messages before his actions (Amos 3:7).
  - F. There are consequences to bad choices.
  - G. This helps people understand when trauma strikes.
  - H. Other.
  
6. How would you characterize God's dealings with Eli?
  - A. Patient.
  - B. Judgmental.
  - C. Warning before actions.
  - D. True to the covenant.
  - E. Hope after punishment.
  - F. Faithful.
  - G. Honoring those who want to be holy.
  - H. Other.
  
7. When does the relationship between parents and children change? What are good ways to navigate through those changes?
  
  
8. How is our relationship with God similar to our relationship with our parent(s)? How is it different?