**1 Samuel 3-4: Substitutes for truth**

**Main: The *instrument* of God’s work should never be confused**

**with the *Source* of that power**

**1. There are periods of time in which God is more clearly active in the world than**

 **others - 3:1**

**2. For us to truly know the Lord, it’s important that we know His Word - 3:7**

 **(2 Cor. 3:18). Knowing the Lord (Jn. 17:3 vs. 1 Jn. 4:7).**

**3. Where rebellion in children is concerned, it’s important to act, not just talk - 3:13**

 **It is wrong both to abuse children and to neglect discipline (Discipline should be**

 **age appropriate).**

**4. Some sins bring with them unavoidable consequences - 3:14; Acts 5:1f; 1 Cor.**

 **11:30**

**5. Eli was not a bad man but he handled a very serious situation poorly; and so it**

 **can be with us - 3:18**

**6. Israel’s defeat at the hand of the Philistines should not have been a mystery -**

 **4:3; Dt. 28:1, 7, 15. The Scriptures tell us what we need to know - 2 Tim. 3:15-16.**

**7. Not knowing and/or believing the Word can lead to substitutes, like**

 **superstitions, rather than the Word - 4:3b. 2 Kings 18:4**

**8. The involvement of spiritual leaders doesn’t mean something is necessarily right**

 **- 4:4**

 **9. Unspiritual leadership creates unspiritual followers – 4:4**

**10. No matter how strongly we believe in what is not true, it doesn’t become true.**

 **Excitement is not a substitute for truth! Many people are genuinely excited**

 **about things that are untrue and wrong - 4:5**

**11. When we falsely represent God, we dishonor Him and His reputation - 4:7-8**

**12. When we embrace lies, we can do harm to ourselves but also those around us**

 **4:10-11**

**13. The results of our sins may reverberate for years - 4:19-22**

**Additional notes**