

Foundations (2 of 4)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, January 23rd 2022



Sermon Series Focus: *Foundations* is a 4-week sermon series that calls us to address the spiritual foundations of our life in Christ. We will see how the gospel challenges us to commit to following Jesus together, which involves regular rhythms of prayer, reading Scripture, and deepening relationships.

Sermon Title: The Call to Prayer

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 46:10; Matthew 6:5-13

Sermon Focus: When we answer the call to discipleship, we commit to some basic spiritual practices and religious routines that help orient our hearts to God and allow us to hear his voice. Prayer is the primary way by which we abide in the Lord, experience his presence and power, discern his will, and stay rooted in his love. In *The Call to Prayer*, Pastor David invites us to develop a conversational relationship with God.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 together. How might this story about Samuel learning to hear the voice of God challenge our common practice of prayer today? Has anyone ever taught you how to listen and respond to God's voice?
2. Take a few minutes to discuss the slide Pastor David talked about regarding three dominate views of God and prayer (i.e., Pantheism, Deism, and Christian Theism). How have you seen these at work in American culture? How have you seen the first two seep into the Church and Christian thinking? What's at stake if we lose the Christian understanding of prayer and communing with God?
3. While most folks have never heard God speak to them audibly, the biblical tradition teaches that God *does* communicate with his children. Of course, God has spoken to people in dramatic fashion (e.g., burning bush, dreams, visions, etc.). But Pastor David shared three *common* ways that God speaks to us:
 1. **God speaks to us directly in an inward way.**
(e.g., Abraham, Moses, the Prophets, Jesus, Paul, etc.)
 2. **God speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures.**
(e.g., Josiah, Jesus, Peter, Paul, Ethiopian Eunuch, etc.)
 3. **God speaks to us through other people.**
(e.g., Nathan to David, Ananias to Saul (Paul), Peter to Cornelius, Paul to the Athenian philosophers, etc.)

Discuss how you have (or haven't) experienced this in your own life.

4. Pastor David said that if we want to hear God speak, we must be listening. We must take up the posture of a listening disciple. Discuss each of the points below and share where you feel you're doing well *and* areas you can grow:
 - a. Our heart and mind must be open to hearing from God
 - b. We need to be humble, believing, dependent & surrendered
 - c. It requires *cultivating* your spiritual capacity to hear God's voice in solitude, *and* in your everyday activities
 - d. We allow *space* for God to speak to us when we pray
5. Pastor David recommended several apps that can help you get into a regular rhythm and routine of prayer and Scripture reading. However, the important thing is that you are intentional in your formation. What is working for you? What changes might you need to make? How is the Spirit speaking to you now?