

Hearing God

A. God is speaking. Are we listening?

"For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it." Job 33:14 (NLT)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 (NLT)

"Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God." John 8:47 (NLT)

Life Application: We need to slow down, tune in, and listen.

"Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." Psalm 5:3 (NLT)

"Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." Proverbs 3:6 (The Message)

B. Four Ways God Speaks:

1. Through His Word

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

2. Through His Spirit

"...Right behind you a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go,' whether to the right or to the left." Isaiah 30:20-21 (NLT)

3. Through Circumstances

"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." Psalms 37:23 (NLT)

4. Through Other Believers

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives..." Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

Note: What God speaks always lines up with His Word and principles of His Kingdom.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17

C. Two reasons to write down what God is speaking.

1. It helps us meditate on what God is saying to us.

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." Psalm 1:1-3 (NLT)

2. It helps us remember what God is saying to us.

"Write down all these specifications and decrees... so they will be sure to remember and follow them." Ezekiel 43:11 (NLT)

Discussion questions:

1. What do the following passages teach us about the importance of listening to God?

- Proverbs 2:2-5

- John 10:27
- John 8:47
- Romans 10:17

Why is hearing from God so important? How often do you hear from God? Are there things that hinder or distract you from hearing from God more often? Discuss this.

2. Discuss these four ways to hear God:

- Through His Word
- Through His Spirit
- Through Circumstances
- Through Other Believers

3. Describe a time that you know God has spoken to you through his Word. Describe a time that you know God has spoken to you through his Spirit (still small voice). Describe a time that you know God has spoken to you through circumstances. Describe a time that you know God has spoken to you through other believers.

4. Read and discuss the following passages on the importance of meditating on God's word.

- Psalm 1:1-3
- Psalm 19:14
- Philippians 4:8

How does journaling help us remember and meditate on what God speaking? Do you write down what you hear from God? Why? Why not?

5. Spend time praying as a group. Pray that God would give us ears to hear what he is saying. Pray that God would help us slow down and tune into what he is speaking. Pray that we would obey and apply what he says.