

Two Way Communication With GOD- Group Questions

Closer: Developing Life with God / April 2, 2017 – Sandra Giet

In our current series, we're exploring ways to draw closer to God. In any relationship, communication is vital. Is our communication with God going both ways? Or mainly one direction? The only way we can walk with certainty in life is by hearing God. When we don't know God's voice we can mistake other voices for God's voice. Could there be anything more important to our lives, than learning to hear his voice?

1. Why is listening important to healthy relationships?
2. How would you describe your prayer life? Does your communication with God flow primarily in one direction? Or are you taking the time to listen as well?
3. Read John 10 1-5
What can we learn about our relationship with God through Jesus' metaphor of a shepherd and his sheep?
4. In what ways have you heard God's voice?
 - Through the Bible
 - Through other people
 - Through our circumstances
 - In our thoughts
 - Through a gentle, inner knowing
 - Through dreams and visions
5. How has God spoken to you in your life's circumstances?
6. Is obedience important to hearing God's Voice? Why?
7. Why is it important to test what we're hearing?
 - Is it consistent with the Bible?
 - Will it make me more like Christ?
 - Does my church family confirm it?
 - Is it convicting rather than condemning?
 - Do I sense God's peace about it?
8. Have you ever thought you heard God to discover later it wasn't his voice? What happened?
9. What have you personally found helpful in hearing God's voice?
10. How can we build stillness into our busy lives in order to recognize God's voice?

Exercise 1: Give everyone paper and a pen

Read: Psalm 25:1-11

Take a couple minutes and ask God what he wants you to know through this passage. What do you hear God saying to you? Allow time for sharing your responses.

Exercise 2: Break into groups of 3 or 4

Ask for a volunteer to pray for. Then take a moment to pray for that person and then sit quietly asking God to give you something for that person.

Write down the first thing that comes to your mind. Wait some more and see if anything else comes to you. It may be just be one word. It may be a picture in your mind. It could a Scripture. If you don't get anything, that's okay.

Then share with the person what you wrote down only if it's encouraging.

Go to the next person.