

IS THAT YOU, GOD?

Small Groups & Wellspring Discussion Guide

Participant pages | Bring your Bible and make room to listen

BIG IDEA: If I'm going to live sent, I have to learn to recognize the voice of the One sending me.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Connect

Whose voice would you recognize immediately, even in a noisy room? What makes it familiar?

Read together | John 10:27

Notice the relationship between listening, being known by Jesus, and following Him.

1. Recognition | Who is speaking?

Read 1 Samuel 3:4-10 and John 10:5. Samuel hears a call but needs help recognizing its source. Relationship, Scripture, and spiritual maturity help us learn discernment.

1. What do you notice about Samuel, Eli, and God in the story? How does this encourage someone who is still learning to recognize God's direction?

2. Which voice tends to compete most for your attention: fear, desire, social media, pressure, your past, or something else? How does it shape your decisions?

3. What would spending more time in Scripture and prayer look like in your actual schedule?

UNDERSTAND & FOLLOW

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Interpretation and response | Test what you hear through Scripture

2. Interpretation | What is He saying?

GOD WILL NEVER SAY SOMETHING THAT CONTRADICTS WHAT HE HAS ALREADY SAID IN HIS WORD.

4. What is the difference between recognizing a possible prompting and understanding what to do? Why might obedience mean waiting, staying, or coming closer?

5. Someone says, "God told me I never have to forgive that person." How would you respond using Scripture and the character of Jesus? Read Ephesians 4:32 as a supporting passage for this discussion.

6. Where might you be asking for a new answer when Scripture has already given a clear instruction? You may reflect privately if you prefer.

3. Response | What will I do with what He said?

Reread John 10:27. Hearing leads to following. Samuel's listening posture and Isaiah's availability point us toward a surrendered response.

7. What keeps you from acting on what you already understand? What would trusting the Shepherd change?

8. What is one specific response you can take this week: forgive, apologize, serve, give, wait faithfully, or make time with God?

ACT ON IT

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Personal reflection, prayer, and a plan for the week

Make room to listen | 3-5 minutes

Read Matthew 11:28. Take a quiet moment with God. You do not need to manufacture an impression or have something to share. Begin with what Scripture makes clear.

Recognition: What competing voice do I need to quiet?

Interpretation: What biblical truth or instruction do I need to receive? If I sense a prompting, how does it agree with Scripture and the character of Jesus?

Response: What faithful step will I take? If direction is uncertain, what can I obey now while seeking wisdom?

My commitment for this week

I will: _____

By: _____

I will make room for Scripture and prayer at: _____

Someone who can encourage me: _____

Pray together

Share only what you are comfortable sharing. Pray for wisdom, closeness to God, and courage to obey. Encourage one another without claiming to know God's exact assignment for someone else.

Prayer: Father, help us know You more closely. Give us a hunger for Your Word, wisdom to test what we hear, and courage to follow what You have made clear. Speak, Lord, for Your servants are listening. In Jesus' name, amen.

At your next gathering: Ask, "What did you practice this week, and what did you learn?"

FACILITATOR NOTES

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Leader page | Suggested gathering length: 60-75 minutes

Aim of the gathering

Help people grow in relationship with Jesus, test possible direction through Scripture, and identify a practical response. Use pages 1-3 as participant handouts.

Suggested flow

Welcome and connect: 10 minutes.

Read and recap: 5 minutes.

Discussion: 30-40 minutes. Select 5-6 questions rather than rushing every question.

Quiet reflection and commitment: 10 minutes.

Prayer: 5-10 minutes.

What to listen for

Recognition: Samuel's story shows growth and the value of wise guidance. Relationship with God develops as people learn His Word, character, and ways.

Interpretation: Feelings, confidence, or someone saying "God told me" do not settle the question. Return to the biblical text and the character of Jesus. In question 5, Ephesians 4:32 directly supports forgiveness.

Response: Encourage a concrete step rather than a vague intention. Waiting can be faithful obedience; it should not become an excuse to ignore a clear biblical command.

Optional Wellspring application

For young adults, use a decision about a job, relationship, education, or online influence. Ask: "What is already clear in Scripture? What remains uncertain? Who could offer wise counsel? What faithful response is possible now?"

Keep the conversation grounded

Invite participation without forcing disclosure. Let people pass. Do not equate an audible voice or an emotional experience with spiritual maturity. Help members use humble language about impressions and examine them through Scripture.

If someone describes hurtful or controlling use of "God said," listen with care. The group should support their discernment rather than pressure a decision. Refer questions needing more care to pastoral leadership.

Close with encouragement

Ask each willing participant to name a step and a timeframe. Pray together, then follow up at the next gathering. The goal is a growing relationship with the Shepherd expressed in obedience.

Prepared from Pastor Troy Culbreth Sr.'s LIVE SENT message, "Is That You, God?" Ephesians 4:32 is an added discussion support passage.