

DIGGING DEEPER

Week 4: Matthew 7:24-27

Our fall groups are continuing to explore our series: This is Essential! This week Pastor Tim prayed the following prayer over all of us, "Jesus, allow us to hear your words and have them speak into our lives in a way that opens our eyes and heart **to the changes you want to make** in me, **the comfort you want to bring**, and **the call you want to make** on our lives."

THE SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD

SCRIPTURE

Work through the text slowly getting a picture of the entire context.

OBSERVATION

What observations do you see in the narrative or events?

APPLICATION

How do you think this applied to people contextually and today?

PRAYER

Ask God to use what you've read to deepen your relationship with him.

OPEN

As you open your group, have each participant share a change, a comfort, or a call that they believe God is trying to bring into their lives.

DISCUSS

Opening Questions: What are you inclined to do during an "awkward silence"? What is the most awkward silence you have ever experienced?

1. How do you listen for the voice of God in your life?
2. What do you think is your bigger issue: being distracted when listening for the voice of God or listening only for your personal agenda with God? What are some steps you can take to change this?
3. How have you observed others put the commands of Jesus into practice? What are some commands that you know or try to regularly keep?
4. How much value does it speak to others when you listen? How much value could you communicate to Jesus through listening or reading of the Word?
5. What commitment can you make this week to be a better listener?

CLOSE

As you close to tonight, leave 20 minutes for silence and reflection. Ask the people in your group to clear their minds and try to focus only on what God might be trying to tell them at this time. Use the following acronym to guide the time, spend 5 minutes in silence surrounding each part.

P

Praise Ask God to speak encouragement to you and allow your heart to speak encouragement to him.

R

Reflection In what way has God been good to you throughout your life?

A

Ask In what ways is God challenging you to move or act in your life?

Y

Yield What is God asking you to give up, put down, or to repent of?

