

# UNSHAKEABLE: LISTENING PRAYER

## SMALL GROUP NOTES - 1/7/18

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### SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17-19, specifically 19:9-16

### OVERVIEW

Prayer is about speaking and listening to God. As Tim Chester puts it, 'prayer is a conversation between friends.' And yet many of us find it difficult to hear the voice of God. We either doubt that God hears us or believe that He does hear us but doubt that He answers! And yet the truth expressed throughout the Bible is that God speaks to His children. The question is not so much does God speak, but how can we grow in listening to Him?

1 Kings 17-19 is one of the most exciting stories in the whole Bible. It's full of drama and tension. It concerns the prophet Elijah standing up to the evil king Ahab who, influenced by his wife, was leading the people of Israel into the worship of a false god. The story is full of moments when God speaks to Elijah in dramatic ways but culminates in a moment when He speaks in a whisper.

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read through 1 Kings 17-19 and note down all the occasions God speaks to Elijah.
2. How does God speak to you? Share your experiences.
3. What do you find difficult about listening to God?
4. God asks Elijah the question 'what are you doing here?' This was because he wasn't in the place he was supposed to be? If God was to ask you that question, what areas of your life would it reveal are not where God wants them to be? Share and pray for one another.

### GO DEEPER

Read 1 Kings 19:1-8. What does this passage tell us about the how life's challenges can shape our perspective in an unhelpful way? What is encouraging with how God deals with Elijah in this moment?