



COMPELLED, PART 2: HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD

The voice that spoke the cosmos into existence is the same voice that parted the Red sea, and made the sun stand still in the midday sky. That voice is God’s voice, and what we learn from Scripture is that He often speaks in a *whisper*. Not to make it difficult to hear Him, but to draw us close.

But how can we hear from God? How can we know exactly what He is whispering to us? Most of us have hearing problems—ears that have been deafened to the voice of God, because everything else is just too loud. And it’s that inability to hear His voice that causes us to lose our voice and lose our way.

BIG IDEA: Learning to hear God’s voice is key to discovering who we are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever struggled with hearing God and understanding what He wants you to do? What did you do?
2. Is God’s voice the loudest voice in your life?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 13:1-4.*

Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have for them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus.

Acts 13:1-4 (NLT)

4. What was the scene when the Spirit spoke to the leaders of Antioch? How do you think He may have spoken?
5. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Psalm 46:10.*
“Be still, and know that I am God...” *Psalm 46:10 (NIV)*
6. Chris said that we need to **create some margin** so we can worship and hear from God. Is it difficult for you to be still and be quiet to hear God’s voice? Why or why not?
7. Chris said, “God often speaks loudest when we’re quietest.” What could you do so that you could hear God’s whisper in your worship times?
8. Chris said, “Busyness keeps us from hearing God.” What are some things you can do during the week to create margin for being with and listening to God?
9. Pastor Chris said that we need to set your heart default to “**Yes.**” *With your Bible or Bible App, read Isaiah 6:8.*

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” *Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)*

10. Have you ever told God, “I will *never* do that?” Does your obedience to God have conditions? What are they? Abraham’s obedience to God didn’t have conditions (*Read Genesis 22.*) **God loves us unconditionally. We should obey God unconditionally.**
11. Chris said that we need to **listen to the voice of God**. God has an outside voice, and He’s not afraid to use it. But when God wants to be heard, He often speaks in a whisper.



COMPELLED

ACTS 12-16

The surest way to get into the presence of God is to get into the Word of God. When we open the Bible, God opens his mouth and He whispers to us through his Word. Two fantastic books that speak of hearing God's voice is [Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God](#) by Mark Batterson and [The Power of a Whisper](#) by Bill Hybels. *Read the following verses and discuss what this teaches us about God's Word:*

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

Psalms 119:9 (NIV)

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.

Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119:130 (NIV)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

12. Chris said that we confirm God's direction in **community**. How has this group helped you figure out what God wants you to do? How can your Small Group build time into each meeting to hear from God?
13. Would you say you are completely willing to be used by God? Why or why not?

THINK ABOUT IT

One of the ways that Pastor Chris taught us that we hear from God is to confirm God's direction in community. Sometimes we think we're being led by God, when it's really our own desires or something else. How can this group become a place of accountability and wisdom? Are you in a safe place to share your decisions and choices? Are you open to hearing from your group members, even if they disagree with your decisions?

MOVING FORWARD

We live in a culture where everyone wants to have his or her voice heard but has so little to say. And that's because we do so little listening, especially to God. The best way to get people to listen to us is for us to listen to God. Why? Because we'll have something to say that is worth hearing.

Chris issued a challenge: to pray a 7-word prayer that can change your life. It's an ancient prayer. It's a prayer that can change the trajectory of your life, just as it did for a prophet named Samuel. But before you pray it, let me issue one warning. If you aren't willing to listen to everything God has to say, you eventually won't hear anything He has to say. If you want to hear His comforting voice, you have to listen to His convicting voice. And it's often what we want to hear least that we need to hear most.

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

1 Samuel 3:9 (NLT)