



HEARING FROM GOD

CREW LEADER GUIDE

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HEARING FROM GOD

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TOPIC

The main difference between a Christian and a non Christian is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Just like any other relationship in life it cannot grow and flourish without health communication. Healthy communication involves both listening and speaking, it is not one directional. This video series will look at how we learn to hear God through prayer and scripture. As Christians we should always desire to hear from God so that we can be encouraged, directed, corrected and used for His Glory.

He who is of God hears Gods words.

JOHN 8:47



START HERE

SET THE TONE WITH PRAYER

Begin your time together with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak to each person.

Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

EPHESIANS 1:17

PREPARATION

The purpose of this guide is to equip and prepare you as the Crew Leader to lead your crew in discussion about hearing from God. Review the video and guide prior to your crew so that you can be prepared to answer questions and lead the discussion. Consider your “audience” and tailor the content to best fit your crew.

RESOURCES

Frequency : Robert Morris
Push : Jurgen Matthesius
True North College : BIB 115 The Holy Spirit

LESSON ONE

PREPARING TO HEAR FROM GOD

INTRO

Today we are starting this series on the communicating with God. Have you ever had a poor phone connection? Trying to communicate through distortion and drop outs can be frustrating. We need to understand when it comes to hearing from God, the bad connection is always on our end. Let's look at ways to fix the poor connection.

▶ WATCH**LESSON ONE PREPARING TO HEAR FROM GOD****CREW DISCUSSION****GOD SPEAKS**

It is important to start with the simple fact that God speaks. A. W. Tozer said, "It is the nature of God to speak." In the begin He spoke the universe into existence, He spoke with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elizabeth, Mary and at the baptism of Jesus. The question isn't if God is speaking but rather are we listening and prepared to hear.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

REVELATION 3:22

THREE WAYS TO PREPARE TO HEAR FROM GOD

1. Not just something you DO...It's someone you ARE.

Scripture tells us about your identity that you are a child of God, you are a son or daughter of the King. And your father wants to communicate with you, He desires for you to hear his voice & recognize him. Simply adopting that mindset will realign the way we think about communicating with our father.

*“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, **and the sheep listen to his voice.** He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and **his sheep follow him because they know his voice.**”*

JOHN 10:1-4

Jesus is our shepherd we are His sheep. We can learn to recognize the voice of God, even if it's a whisper...but only when we are prepared to hear from God.

2. Nature & Nurture

Hearing the shepherds voice is inherent, it's in our nature, it's a natural instinct we are born with. You were created with the innate ability to hear from God but it is also something that must be practical practiced.

Set time aside to spend in His presence and practice hearing from God. Find a place to pray, quiet ourselves and listen and act on what we are hearing.

He who is of God hears Gods words.

JOHN 8:47

3. Start Small

Learn to listen to God and respond to the small things... God will place a thought or a feeling on your heart. Don't hesitate, act on that impression even if it seems small...God will bless your obedience in the small things. you have to decide to create healthy spiritual habits, by getting the little things right.

Jesus modeled what healthy communication looks like. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and how to quiet themselves and listen. He modeled that when He went off alone to be quiet & pray.

Prayer is both speaking and listening. Too often we just speak and then hang up. Paul says “we should pray without ceasing”, always ready to hear from the Lord.

SPEAKING WITH HIS CHILDREN

God desperately desires to speak to His children? Lets make the choice as children of God to prepare our hearts and tune in and hear what God is speaking to us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How would you describe your communication with God and How well do you sense what he is communicating to you?

What do you think is the main reason you may struggle to hear from God?

What do think is your next step in order to grow and mature in this area?

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON TWO

ELIMATING DISTRACTIONS

INTRO

Life can get busy. Voices of family, career, finances, worry, schedules and calendars, insecurities...all speaking in our ear and sometimes these voices can drown out the voice of God. Let's look at how we can quiet the competing voices in our life to better hear what God is saying to you.

▶ WATCH

LESSON TWO ELIMATING DISTRACTIONS

CREW DISCUSSION

SATAN WORKS IN CONFUSION

With all of the competing voices in our lives the enemies tactic is to make you question who said what. Satan always wants to throw confusion onto what God says. We see this in the garden in Genesis and the temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13.

"Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

GENESIS 3:1

ISOLATE YOUR THOUGHTS

What are the thoughts you wake up with in the morning? Are they thoughts of peace, faith and hope or anxiety, apathy and bitterness? Often your thought life can indicate the voices you are listening to.

THREE WAYS TO FOCUS ON GOD'S VOICE

1. Decide if you want to hear God's voice or not.

This may sound silly but do you really want to hear from God, even if He says things you may not want to hear? God desires His children to live in peace, freedom and joy. This may require God revealing areas of past hurt, disobedience and sin in our lives.

To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.

JEREMIAH 6:10

Take comfort and find pleasure in hearing from God because God knows what's best for you!

But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen... So the Lord Almighty was very angry. "When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen," says the Lord Almighty.

ZECHARIAH 7:11-13

Ask yourself will you be willing to act on what God says even before you hear Him speak?

2. A Quiet Place

Then pray and ask God to quiet your mind. Begin to pray the opposite of the negative or distracting voices in your head. Speak faith for healing to the voice of sickness & doubt, Speak words & scriptures of peace to the voice of worry. Whatever voice that comes into your mind that is not of God...speak directly to it. By doing this you are emitting an opposing tone to the negative voices in your head...creating a stillness. After you have done this...then Read his word, do a devotional, Pray and ask God what he is speaking.

3. Pray without Ceasing

Start with just a small amount of time in a personal devotional, but soon this stillness will expand to become more natural. You will be able to pray boldly and speak life over your situations at all times of the day. The voice of God will be one that you will begin to hear often, his spirit and his leading will be a daily thing.

Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus....

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What would you say are the main voices that speak into your mind & heart on a daily basis?

What are the negative voices speaking to you...and what would be the scriptural opposite?

How do you plan to go about creating space to eliminate distracts?

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON THREE

HOW GOD SPEAKS: HIS WORD & WORSHIP

INTRO

Today I want to focus on some of the methods or platforms that God uses to speak to people today. Scripture tells us God communicates in a variety of ways: Through a sermon, through our crew leader, through life circumstances, through wise counsel of a friend, through impressions on our heart, or feelings of peace, through dreams and visions, God speaks to our heart, to our thoughts and even through objects (like a burning bush or a donkey). Today we are going to focus in on 2 of the ways God regularly communicates to people: His Word & Worship.

▶ WATCH

LESSON THREE HOW GOD SPEAKS I

CREW DISCUSSION

GOD'S WORD : THE BIBLE

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

HEBREWS 4:12

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

PSALM 119:105

REVEALING LIGHT

Luke 15, Jesus tell the parable of the woman who lost a valuable coin. The first thing the women does is to go and light a lamp then she searches her house for the coin and finds it. In the same way we lose something in the darkness, our joy, our hope, our freedom, the Word of God with be the light to reveal what was lost.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

ALIVE AND ACTIVE

The Bible is no ordinary book, it is alive and active. It is God breathed, our daily bread to sustain us and the light to illuminate our position and path. God has a lot to say in His Word. The Bible isn't just a storybook but the Word of God that can speak directly into your season and situation.

Start a journal and whenever you feel that God is speaking to you, write it down and write an action step.



WORSHIP

When we sincerely engage with God in praise & worship it prepares and positions our hearts to hear what God has to say next. That is why most of our church services start with praise and worship to prepare our hearts to hear from God.

now bring me a harpist, while the harpist was playing the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha...

2 KINGS 3:15

God spoke to Elisha during, through and because of worship. His entering into a time of worship quieted and stilled his own thoughts so that Gods could be heard and acted upon.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

PSALM 100:4

While they were worshipping the lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said....

ACTS 13:2

We need to be reminded that God loves to speak back to you in these moments. Something very practical you can do the next time you are worshipping is to intentionally take a moment to listen. Stop singing, and just listen...what is God speaking to your heart?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Of all the different ways God communicates, In what way do you feel God most communicates with you?*
- 2. In what ways has God spoken to you through his Word either currently or in the past?*
- 3. Have you ever taken time in the midst of a worship service to stop and listen...what was the outcome?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON FOUR

HOW GOD SPEAKS: PEOPLE & PRAYER

INTRO

It is important to write and remember what God has said to you. It could be a message, a time of prayer, a word from a friend, a small group, or a word in worship or in the word. This will help you always remember God is faithful in all seasons and that He is always with you. Don't miss an opportunity to hear Him Speak.

▶ WATCH

LESSON FOUR HOW GOD SPEAKS II

CREW DISCUSSION

GOD SPEAKS : THROUGH PEOPLE

Throughout the Bible, God speaks through people. God spoke through Moses to the Pharaoh through Elijah to the Israelites and through John the Baptist to repent because the messiah was coming.

CHOOSES TO USE US

How incredible is that. That God would entrust for us to communicate his perfect will to another person. It might be an encouraging word, a comforting word, a wise word, a word of warning, a rebuke or correction. Sometimes it is a hard thing to tell someone something God put on your heart, it can be hard to hear as well.

God uses people who you would expect to speak through like our pastors, a close friend and those we may not expect like our children.

DISCERNING WHAT IS SAID

Whenever someone is speaking to us, especially if they claim its from God it must be weighed and tested. Here are three ways to ensure the Word is from God.

1. Does what that person said line up with Scripture?

God does not contradict himself.
His spoken Word will not contradict His written Word.

“I the Lord, do not change...”

MALACHI 3:6

2. Does Godly council agree?

Does this person talking to you love you, love God and love the local church? if not then be wary of their counsel. What do the people in your life who love you, love God and the local church have to say?

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice

PROVERBS 12:15

Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

PROVERBS 24:6

Listen to the wise voices in your life. God speaks to them and a trusted voice is better than an untested voice. God may tell you the “What”, but Godly council can give you the “When” and the “How”.

3. Does peace reign in your heart?

Some things you hear and just know are wrong, and some things you just know are right...even if they are hard to hear. We can have this calm and peace about a decision that should be causing anxiety or fear.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

COLOSSIANS 3:15

GOD SPEAKS : THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is talked about often throughout all of scripture as being important to God & essential for Christians. Even Jesus himself prayed. And if prayer was something Jesus did, then there is no reason for us not to do it as well.

CHANGE YOUR APPROACH

Often we bring our needs, wants and desires to God in order to change Gods mind or alignment to fit our own. This is the opposite of what prayer was intended to be and how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Prayer should be more about aligning our own heart & mind to God...rather than it is about changing Gods mind to ours.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 JOHN 5:14-15

PRACTICE PRAYER

Set a time of day to read your word and pray, be intentional about listening. Start a prayer journal where you record what you're praying about, but also how God responds to those prayers. Over time you'll see how God works things out for the best...either through answered prayers or unanswered prayers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Who is a person in your life that God has used to speak to you?*
2. *What are some situations where you may need to test the words of a person to see if they are truly from God?*
3. *What would you say is your next step in the area of prayer?*

CLOSING PRAYER