

## DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

**Wise:** having discernment and sound decision-making

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity,” Ephesians 5.15-16a

## THE VOICE - WHISPER

### STARTER ACTIVITY - TELEPHONE

This would be a great activity to have kids join in on (it would probably make the answers more entertaining).

Have everyone come up with a random sentence about themselves and be as descriptive as possible. You can give ideas like, “My favorite summer vacation was...” “In my family I have...” “My first job was...” “If I won a million dollars I would buy...” “The best meal I ever had was...” “My favorite thing to cook is...” etc.

Alternate speakers and listeners. Speaker 1 will tell Listener 1 their sentence one time and Listener 1 may not ask any clarifying questions. Simultaneously, Speaker 2 will tell Listener 2 their sentence, etc. This will continue around the circle so everyone is either speaking or listening at the same time. Then, Listener 1 will turn around and tell Speaker 2 the sentence they learned about Speaker 1, Example: “Laura’s favorite meal was in San Diego at a restaurant where she had fish tacos with fresh caught flounder.”

Keep the sentences going around the circle until it comes back to the person next to the original speaker, then the last listener must say the sentence out loud that they learned about the person to their left (i.e. Speaker 1 will have to state Listener 1’s sentence as accurately as possible.”

Hilarity about accuracy will usually ensue.

Then discuss:

- **What does this have to do with hearing from God?** (*Relying on hearing through what others think isn’t always going to get you the truth. If we don’t pursue or ask questions we may miss the meaning. We may feel frustrated that things what is communicated is confusing... etc*)

### STARTER QUESTIONS:

How many of you could tell stories about your best friends (good and bad)? Why is that easy to do? (*We have walked with them through these times or heard them tell their stories many times*)

What do you do if you want to get to know someone new? (*Ask questions, listen, hear their storie*)

**MAIN IDEA:**

God speaks to us, but we must learn how to listen to him.

From the message this week: *“God speaks in different ways, but we don't always recognize His voice.”* Job 33:14 (CEV)

Topics for discussion:

In the message, Pastor Hank gave us 4 specific ways to hear God’s voice.

**1. The Bible**

God has already spoken thousands of words. Our job is to learn how to get into the Word and start listening to the ways God has already spoken to others. Lessons God has spoken to others can help speak truth in our lives.

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”  
John 1:1**

**“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,  
correcting and training righteousness,”  
2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)**

**Have you ever had the Bible influence you in one of these ways, i.e. teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training in righteousness?**

**2. Godly people**

**“The godly give wise advice to their friends. The wicked lead them astray.”  
Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)**

**Where do you find yourselves on this scale?**

- 1. I never trust the wisdom of others.**
- 6. I always trust what wise friends say.**

**1 ..... 2..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6**

**What are the advantages or disadvantages / risks or rewards for each end of the scale?**

### 3. The Holy Spirit (Impressions)

*“The Holy Spirit... will be your teacher and will bring to your mind all I have said to you.”*  
John 14:26 (Ph)

**Have you ever had an experience where you think the Holy Spirit was nudging you? Have you had a scripture come back to you at just the moment you needed?**

How do you discern the Holy Spirit's voice from other thoughts? (*Does what he's saying align with other ways God speaks? i.e. the Holy Spirit will never contradict scripture*).

### 4. Circumstances

Jesus:

*I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”*  
Rev 3:8 (NIV)

**This can be the most dangerous form of God's Voice to rely on. Why?**

**Have you ever had circumstances steer you wrong? Or when has it steered you in the right direction?**

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Hearing from God can feel frustrating and time consuming. It also can feel like we've gone a long time without anything specific. Remember though, that for the 40 years the Israelites were in the dessert they were supposed to follow the strict instructions that God had given them in the very beginning. Without any new information, keep following the direction that God last gave you. Keep reading scripture and praying and talking to people, but lots of times God doesn't want us to change boats, just slightly adjust the sails to stay on course.

**How can our group pray for you?**

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

# THE VOICE

“Whisper”

February 11, 2018

*“LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.”* 1 King 19:11-12 (NKJ)

*“God speaks in different ways, but we don't always recognize His voice.”*  
Job 33:14 (CEV)

## How God Speaks

*“I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.”*  
Psalm 81:10 (NIV)

## 4 Ways God Speaks

### 1. The Bible

*“Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.”* 2 Timothy 3:16 (CEV)

### 2. Godly People

*“The godly give wise advice to their friends. The wicked lead them astray.”*  
Proverbs 12:26 (NLT)

### 3. The Holy Spirit (Impressions)

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