

**Leadership Tip:**

While we study how to better listen for God's voice, also take the time to listen to the prayers and concerns of your group members.

**THE VOICE -- RECOGNITION****STARTER QUESTIONS:**

Has there ever been a time when you had trouble determining whether a voice was God's or the enemy's?

When you think of times when God spoke to people in the Bible, what is one of the first stories that comes to mind? Why?

Why is it important to discuss God's voice with your LIFE group?

**MAIN IDEA:**

In our current series titled, "The Voice," we are learning about the different ways God speaks to us, and how to decipher between God's voice and the enemy's voice. Pastor Hank said, "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."

**KEY VERSE:**

*Jesus: "Who do you say that I am?" - Matthew 16:15 (NLT)*

Pastor Hank addressed five questions to ask yourself, when you're not sure if a voice is God's or the enemy's:

1. Does it agree with the Bible?

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."* Luke 21:33 (NIV)

**Who can you turn to, or would you turn to, if you were unsure whether or not the voice you heard agrees with the Bible?**

2. Am I elevating how I feel above what God says to be true?

*“Jesus said to His disciples, ‘There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting!’”*  
Luke 17:1 (NLT)

**Has there ever been a time when you may have claimed a voice was God, in order to gain your own desires?**

3. Will it make me more like Jesus?

*“In your lives you must think and act like Jesus Christ.”*  
Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

*“If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition... such ‘wisdom’ is of the devil. The wisdom that comes from God is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.”*  
James 3:14-17 (NIV)

**Have you ever heard an impression that was from bitter envy or selfish ambition? How did you handle it? How were you sure it wasn’t from God?**

4. Do Godly people confirm it?

*“The wisdom of the righteous can save you.”*  
Proverbs 11:9 (GN)

Pastor Hank said, “God never meant for you to go through life on your own. That’s why He created the church family, because we need each other.” That’s why we have LIFE groups!

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*  
Psalm 133:1 (NIV)

**Ask someone to find, and read aloud, Proverbs 19:20-21 (NIV).**

5. What is the tone of that impression?

“Have you sensed God saying anything encouraging to you lately? Or is it all about pressure? ... Listen for context clues.” Pastor Hank

“Satan wants to drive us compulsively, but God desires to draw us compassionately.” Pastor Hank

**What are some examples of a voice with Jesus-like compassion? What has He said to you lately? Has Satan ever tried to drive you compulsively?**

<b>GOD'S VOICE</b>	<b>SATAN'S VOICE</b>
Calms	Obsesses
Comforts	Worries
Convicts	Condemns
Encourages	Discourages
Enlightens	Confuses
Leads	Pushes
Reassures	Frightens
Stills	Rushes
Specific	Vague

**After looking at the table above, can you identify the voice that last spoke to you?**

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

The Lord speaks to people of all nations, and of all ages, we need only listen.

**READ 1 Samuel 3:9 (NASB):**

*“Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.”*

**And also Proverbs 2:1-5 (ESV):**

**“My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”**

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

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

Additional Scriptures about Listening in the Bible:

John 10:27-28, Mark 4:24, Revelation 3:20, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 4:7, Deuteronomy 28:1-2, Luke 8:18

**THE VOICE**  
"Recognition"  
February 18, 2018

Jesus: *"Who do you say that I am?"*

Matthew 16:15 (NLT)

*"Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you.'"*

Matthew 16:16-17 (NLT)

*"Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. 'Heaven forbid, Lord,' he said. 'This will never happen to you!' Jesus turned to Peter and said, 'Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.'"*

Matthew 16:21-23 (NLT)

*"Don't believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; Test it first to see if it really is!"*

1 John 4:1 (LB)

**How to test whether an impression is from God or not:**

1. Does it agree with the Bible?

*"Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away."*

Luke 21:33 (NIV)

2. Am I elevating how I feel above what God says to be true?

*"Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts."*

2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT)

*"Jesus said to his disciples, 'There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting!'"*

Luke 17:1 (NLT)

3. Will it make me more like Jesus?

*"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

*"If you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition... such 'wisdom' is of the devil. The*

*wisdom that comes from God is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.* James 3:14-17 (NIV)

4. Do Godly people confirm it?

*“The wisdom of the righteous can save you.”*

Proverbs 11:9 (GN)

*“In the multitude of counselors there is safety.”*

Proverbs 11:14b (KJV)

5. What is the tone of that impression?

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*“Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.”*

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