



UNMUTED

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

WEEK 1 – REVELATION

CHECK-IN

How are you? Where have you seen God working in your life in the last week? And... today's ice breaker is an Ai exercise. Go to chatwithGod.ai and ask it a question... as we go around the circle, share a summary of your answer. Get creative... this could be fun!

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-present God, remind us to slow down, quiet ourselves, and listen for your voice.

INTRODUCTION

Though I don't recommend using this chatbot for your conversations with God, the very existence of this website hints at something that exists within every one of us... the desire that God will speak to us. If you believe in a God at all, especially one that is as involved in Creation as the one we believe in, you have to hold some level of expectation that that God wants to talk to us in a way that we will understand... to the point where we invented an Ai chatbot to do it. I

mean, why would God create us, a God we call loving Father, ever-present Holy Spirit, friend and Savior Jesus, a God who operates like a loving, doting mother... why would a God *that* involved not speak to her children? Every one of us, every Christian throughout history, and nearly every character we encounter in the Bible has the same desire... “God, speak to me.” We all want to hear God’s voice. We want to know what God wants us to do in certain situations. We want to know what path we should take for our life. We want to know we’re not alone, that we’ll get through a tough time. We want to know God is listening and heard our requests. We want to hear God’s voice. But how many of us have a hard time with it? Listening for God’s voice, God’s guidance, God’s will... is hard. And yet, it’s possible. And so, for today and the next 3 weeks, we’re going to talk about that... how to listen for God’s voice.

Set-up Question: How do you feel about your Ai response to your question? Worthwhile exercise or slop-nonsense? What question would you ask God if you had a real face-to-face?

SERIES SETUP

God is always talking to us, constantly. In every moment of life, in multiple ways, all around us, directly and indirectly, God is speaking. It’s kinda like having your TV or Google Home or Spotify app on... when you hit the mute button it doesn’t stop the stream of audio. The audio is still there in the device. The computers at Peacock headquarters are still sending the audio of America’s Got Talent to my TV. The data center that runs Spotify is still sending my 80s Rock

playlist entitled “Danger Zone” to my phone. I’ve just chosen to mute it. God is always, always sending you audio. We just have to learn to unmute it.

So, how do we “unmute” God’s voice in our lives? Well, there are some tried and true ways to do that... and that’s what we’ll be tackling the next month. How do I know what God wants for my life? How do I hear God’s responses to my prayers? And how do I know it’s actually God? Hopefully, by the end of this series, you’ll have a grasp on how to unmute God’s audio, and hear God’s voice in your life.

Question 1: Consider this passage and the Creation story. What stands out to you about this passage? What does it say about God? What does it say to you?

SCRIPTURE

Okay so, where do we start? Well, there are three basic ways God speaks to us. And to start, for a lot of us, we’d love for God to just walk through that door, sit down with each of us, and answer all of our questions. Or, when we pray, we want God to send down an angel with a scroll, “Hear ye, I regret to inform you, you will not be getting that promotion, and the Packers will not win the Super Bowl, you can stop asking.” We just want a direct, obvious, and unmistakable answer. The good news? Sometimes, that does happen! Let’s take a look.

Our example from the Bible comes way back in the second book, called, Exodus, to a guy named Moses. The Israelites are enslaved in Egypt, and through a wild set of circumstances, one of their own, Moses, is raised by a daughter of the Pharaoh. As an adult, he gets into some trouble, and leaves Egypt. He gets married, and years later, while tending his sheep, this happens.

Read Exodus, chapter 3, verses 1 through 4.

God would go on to tell Moses that he would return to Egypt, go up against Pharaoh, and eventually lead his people out of slavery. But it's not the content of the call we're going to focus on today... it's the *manner* in which God spoke to him, the burning bush, that we'll look at.

Question 2: Consider this story in Exodus. What stands out to you about this passage? How would you have felt if you were Moses? Would you have listened, or run in the opposite direction?

REFLECTION

Moses finds himself on Mount Horeb, (also called Mt. Sinai,) and he sees a bush on fire, no one around, nothing to have caused the flames, and the wood is not being consumed. As he goes to check it out, God calls to him from within the bush. God unmutes the audio *for* Moses. This is what we want, right? We want a burning bush with the voice of God telling us what to do. We pray for guidance, we pray

for direction, we ask for things... how nice would it be to then get a burning bush and God's voice to give us an answer. There's a word for this way God speaks to us. It's called...

REVELATION

God *reveals* his voice to Moses. There's no question, there's no writing it off or explaining it away. Revelation is when God speaks to you directly. Now, there aren't many burning bushes these days, but God can (and does) speak to us this way, through direct *revelation*. It just doesn't look or sound like a voice from a burning bush.

Question 3: If God needed to get your attention like He did with Moses, what would He use? A book that writes a message to you before your very eyes, *a la* Harry Potter? A tv commercial that calls you by name? A flaming cell phone? What's your modern equivalent of a burning bush?

Okay, if it's not a burning bush or an angel with a divine scroll, what does revelation look like for us. Well, there are 3 ways this shows up in our lives today. The first form of revelation is: you just *know* something. I call it the implantation of knowledge... God allows you to just *know* something. So pray. Pray for guidance. Pray for God's advice and direction. And, (there is precedence for this in the Bible,) go ahead and pray for a sign. Will you always get one? No. Can you get one? Yup. So give it a shot, then keep your eyes open. God might just give you a revelation, and you'll just *know*.

The second way I believe God speaks to us directly in revelation is, you just *feel*. Moses's first experience was not the voice of God. His first experience was God's presence as the flame within the burning bush. Now, I don't know if you've ever had this type of experience, but it's a revelation of its own... a feeling of God's presence surrounding you. It can feel like peace when you're in chaos. It can feel like comfort when you're in mourning. It can feel like hope, when you're at the end of your rope. That's a revelation from God. There are no words, there's no voice... but it's God speaking, nonetheless, letting you know it's okay, He's there, you're not alone.

The final type of direct revelation is, sometimes you just *hear*. Most folks have never heard the audible voice of God, like we would sitting listening to another human, but there are credible, trustworthy people who have. More often, it just sounds like a voice in your head, or a thought you wouldn't have come up with yourself. Even this can be the voice of God revealed to you. So, direct *revelation* can be something God helps you to just *know*, just *feel*, or even just *hear*.

Question 4: Has God ever spoken to you in one of these ways? Take some time to think through meaningful times in your life... did you miss a moment where God was trying to speak to you in these ways? Might there be something God is trying to tell you now in one of these forms?

CLOSING

God is speaking to us all the time... we just have to unmute His voice. "But Mike, that's all well and good, but that just doesn't happen to me. Evidently, I'm not on God's 'Frequently Called' List." Well, there are ways to help *direct revelation* along. First, if you want to *just hear* God's voice, God doesn't shout over the noise in your life. Get quiet. Put down the phone. Set aside the distractions. Listen. You'll be amazed at what you hear. Also, if you want to just *feel* God's presence, or just *know* God's will, you have to put yourself in positions for that to happen. Go to worship. Read your Bible. Get away from the chaos. Be where you're already expecting God's presence.

Okay, there's a *lot* more to this, but for that, you'll have to come back the next 3 weeks. To start this week, go ahead and pray... ask God for guidance and direction, ask God for advice and a sign...but then, quiet yourself, put yourself in places where you could potentially hear God's voice, and then keep your eyes and ears and spirit open, because you never know, God might just give you your own burning bush.

**Take some time to share prayer requests or celebrations
and close in prayer.**