Hearing God

STUDY GUIDE / TEACHING BY AL

We respond to God’s call by learning to recognize Jesus’ voice and follow Him. Scripture gives us a sure foundation as we learn to listen.

Use this guide alongside the 68-minute recording. The times are approximate; pause to read the passages in context and write down what stands out.

00:00-05:00

Begin with faith and relationship

Al opens by asking how we can respond to God’s call if we never listen for His voice. He points out that God does not always guide in the same way. Faith grows as we hear His word, and following Jesus means staying close enough to recognize His voice amid competing voices.

Read (NIV): Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17.

05:00-08:10

Recognize the Shepherd

Jesus goes ahead of His sheep. They follow because they know His voice, and they do not follow a stranger. Al draws out a practical implication: if you are unsure whose voice you are hearing, you can wait. God’s guidance comes with His care for the person He is leading.

Read (NIV): John 10:1-6; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 23:3.

08:10-15:30

Listen to what God has already said

Al calls Scripture the primary way God speaks to us. He uses everyday examples such as honesty and refusing to steal: when Scripture is clear, we already have something to obey. Read regularly so that God’s Word renews how you think and gives you a way to weigh impressions.

Read (NIV): 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; Colossians 3:9; Ephesians 4:28; Romans 12:2.

Pause and reflect: What has God already made clear in Scripture that I can act on this week?

How God guides

LISTENING NOTES / 15:30-44:50

15:30-23:30

The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus

The Spirit reminds believers of Jesus' words and guides them into truth. Al discusses prophetic gifts, an audible voice, and inner promptings. He cautions that our own desires can shape what we think we hear. Compare the Shepherd's patience and conviction, which invite a response, with pressure or accusation that drives and condemns.

Read (NIV): John 14:26; 16:13-14; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; James 1:13-15.

23:30-30:40

Visions, dreams, and circumstances

Paul's Macedonian vision came after his team encountered closed routes. Joseph's response to dreams was to depend on God for interpretation. Peter's vision challenged assumptions about whom God welcomed. Joseph's story also shows that God can work through painful circumstances; a circumstance alone does not have to settle what you should do.

Read (NIV): Acts 16:6-10; Genesis 40:8; 41:15-16; Acts 10:9-16, 28; Genesis 50:20.

30:40-38:05

People, leadership, and worship

Al urges believers to hear God for themselves and seek counsel from people who know them: "This is what I believe God's telling me to do. Give me counsel." Others may help us see our bias. Songs rooted in Scripture can also help truth stay with us.

Read (NIV): Luke 24:30-32; Numbers 9:17-23; Hebrews 13:17; Philippians 4:9; Deuteronomy 31:19-22.

38:05-44:50

Unexpected means, wisdom, and peace

The class looks at unusual examples, including angelic messages and Balaam's donkey. Al also urges ordinary good judgment in everyday responsibilities and prayer with thanksgiving as we look for the peace of Christ.

Read (NIV): Matthew 2:13; Numbers 22:21-35; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15-16.

Weigh what you hear

DISCERNMENT AND RESPONSE / 45:00 TO THE CLOSE

45:00-50:50

Remember why God speaks

Al names Scripture and the peace of God as two safeguards. He then connects guidance to three things: God is our Father, He knows our future, and He leads for the sake of His name. His general will, revealed in Scripture, shapes the way we seek His direction for particular decisions.

Read (NIV): Isaiah 26:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Psalm 23:3.

50:50-56:35

Come willing to do God's will

Al brings together Jesus' words about choosing to do God's will and Ezekiel's warning about idols of the heart. His example is someone who asks God about moving but has already settled on the answer. Ask honestly whether you are seeking direction or looking for approval.

Read (NIV): John 7:17; Ezekiel 14:1-6; 1 Samuel 8:4-22.

56:35-60:50

Return to obedience and seek His presence

When you feel stuck, Al suggests asking what you last understood God to be saying and whether you acted on it. He draws on Elijah's return and Moses' request for God's presence. Through Jesus, believers can come to God directly, while still welcoming the wisdom of the church.

Read (NIV): Luke 6:46; 1 John 1:7; 1 Kings 19:11-15; Exodus 33:12-17; Hebrews 1:1-2.

60:50-64:40

Write it down and give it time

From Habakkuk, Al draws a practical lesson: record what you believe God has shown you so you can return to it. An impression about the future does not tell you to act immediately. Be faithful with what is clear today and leave room for God's timing. Al illustrates this with his move to Colorado: after he prayed, fasted, and sought counsel, his wife showed him that she had written down Colorado a year earlier.

Read (NIV): Habakkuk 2:2-3.

64:40-68:04

Listen together and leave room for others

The class closes with Paul's reminder that we know in part. When someone shares an impression in church, others can weigh it and contribute. Share what you believe you received without filling in the gaps or assuming you have the whole picture.

Read (NIV): 1 Corinthians 13:9-12; 14:29-33.

Put it into practice

PERSONAL REFLECTION / GROUP DISCUSSION

A listening exercise for this week

Choose one decision or area of obedience to bring before God. Start by reading John 10:1-6 and praying for a willingness to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

1. Start with Scripture. What has God already made clear? Read the relevant passage in context.

2. Name your preference. What outcome do you want? Are you willing to hear something different?

3. Pray and weigh it. Is the impression consistent with Scripture and Jesus' character? As you pray, do you sense the peace of Christ, or do you feel driven to act? What might you be overlooking?

4. Seek counsel. Share what you think you heard with a mature believer who knows you. Invite them to ask questions and help you weigh it.

5. Record and respond. Date what you believe you heard. Separate the impression from your interpretation and timing. Take the step that is clear; give an uncertain impression time.

Discuss together

What is the difference between recognizing Jesus' voice and expecting Him to guide the same way every time?

What changes when you ask someone to help you weigh an impression instead of asking them to decide for you?

How might "we know in part" change the way your group shares and responds to what people believe God is saying?

What is my next step of obedience?

Source: Equipped Church, Accomplishing the Call: Hearing God, taught by Al. The exercise and discussion questions are study prompts based on the class.