

HEARING GOD

DISCERNING HIS VOICE

LIFE GROUP STUDY • WEEK 3

WEEK OF FEB 4



READING ASSIGNMENT

Hearing God – Pages 51b-53a; 90b-94a



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series *Hearing God*. We learned that the *non-negotiable* for hearing God is obedience.

As you prepare for this study, read the following passage and ask God to create a deep love for Him in your heart that results in a passion to obey His commands.

*And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. **2 John 1:6***



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Has there ever been a point in your life when you were so serious about a goal that you sacrificed other priorities to make that goal happen? What was the goal, what did you sacrifice, and what was the eventual outcome?
2. What was your favorite lesson, insight, or learning from this weekend's message, and why?
3. This weekend we learned that *Jesus Came To Restore Our Love For God... And Our Passion For Obedience*. When you hear the word *obedience*, what's the first thing that comes to mind? What emotions does it raise? Who do you think of first? Would you say you have positive, neutral, or negative reactions to the word obedience? Why?

- a. This week, we read pages 51b-53a and 90b-94a in *Hearing God*. On page 51, Dallas Willard writes:

In seeking and receiving God's word to us, we must also seek and receive the grace of humility. Our being humble allows God to speak to us because he knows we will not misuse his words. Lack of humility creates problems.

What types of problems do you think a lack of humility creates in our relationship with God?

- b. Beginning on page 90, Dallas Willard asks three questions:

- Are we "in tune"?
- Are we ready vessels?
- Are we ready to be in business with God?

Why do you think the attitude of our heart impacts our ability to discern God speaking to us?

4. Read 1 John 2:1-11.

- a. In the very beginning of this chapter, John says that he is writing so that we continue to obey (“so that you will not sin”). What hope does he say that we have if we fall into disobedience?
- b. How does John say that we can know if we have come to Jesus?
- c. Who is our life supposed to be modeled after?
- d. John says the command (vv. 7-8) to obedience is both old—it has existed since the beginning—but also new, because its truth is now seen in Jesus and in us. What example of obedience in action does John give (vv. 9-11)?

5. In 1 John 2:6, John says *whoever claims to live in [Jesus] must live as Jesus did*. For Jesus, obedience was non-negotiable. Read John 4:31-34.

- a. The disciples were concerned that Jesus hadn't eaten. What affect does skipping a meal have on you? How does skipping a meal affect your body, emotions, attitude, etc.? Have you ever accidentally gone a whole day without eating?
- b. What do you think Jesus meant by *His food is to do the Father's will*?

6. It's easy to think that because Jesus was God and because obedience was non-negotiable, that obedience came without struggle. Read Matthew 26:36-44.

- a. How does Jesus describe His emotions to Peter, James, and John in verse 38?
- b. How can you tell that Jesus still values obedience in His passionate, anguish-filled prayers?
- c. Have you ever had a similar moment in your life when God was calling you to do something very difficult, and it was hard for you to surrender?
- d. What were your prayers like in that moment?

7. Michael left us with a key question at the end of the message: *Are You Completely Surrendered... To God?*

- a. Has there been a time in your life in which you chose not to listen and follow? What was the outcome of that decision?
- b. Can you remember a time when you chose to obey God despite the sacrifice or surrender that would be required? What was the outcome of that decision?
- c. As you reflect on the question from the message, is there anything that comes to mind that is more important to you in your life now than obeying God? Why does that thing carry so much weight in your life? What does it offer you that you can't find in Jesus?

8. In question 1, at the beginning of this study, you described a time when you made sacrifices for something you felt passionate about. What would it look like in your life to follow Jesus' model and be *that* passionate about obeying God? What would have to change in your life?