

HEARING GOD

DISCERNING HIS VOICE



LIFE GROUP STUDY • WEEK 4

WEEK OF FEB 11



READING ASSIGNMENT

Hearing God – Pages 44b-46a, 184b-188a, 209b-215a, 237b-240



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we continued our series *Hearing God* and learned that *The Bible Is The Primary Way That God Speaks*.

As you begin this study, spend a few minutes *dwelling* on this verse. Ask the Lord if there's anything He wants to speak to you about through these words.

*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. **Psalm 1:1-3***



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Dre shared his journey of how God has grown his view and understanding of the Bible. What has your view of the Bible been in the past, and how has that view possibly changed during different seasons of your walk with Him?
2. How frequently do you engage in God's Word each week?
 - a. What does your time in God's Word look like for you? What are you expecting or hoping from your time in His Word?
 - b. In Psalm 1:1-3 above, what benefits do we receive if we *delight* in and *meditate* on God's Word?
3. As Dre shared, *The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper...That Illuminates The Bible For Us*. One way the Spirit can illuminate the Bible is in *highlighting* a specific verse or passage to encourage, strengthen, or teach us. In your walk with Jesus, what have been some key passages that the Spirit has highlighted for you, whether they were for a specific circumstance or season, or were for the purpose of becoming a "life verse" for you to hold on to in the long run? And how have those passages impacted you?
4. Read Matthew 4:1-4. In this passage, Jesus has been fasting for 40 days and nights, and now the devil has come to tempt Him.
 - a. Considering Jesus' response in verse 4, it's clear that the Word can help us overcome spiritual attacks and pervasive issues like negative thinking or strongholds of sin. What verses has the Spirit used in your life to help you overcome spiritual attacks from the enemy or ongoing sin issues?

5. The writer of Hebrews shares how powerfully Scripture can impact our hearts. Read Hebrews 4:12. How have you experienced the Word bringing such conviction to your heart that it caused you to change course in your life for the better?

6. On page 187 of *Hearing God*, Dallas Willard writes,

The Scriptures are an unbelievable treasure, but people can use the Bible to support their position. When they come to the Scripture with an open heart, they will see the Word light up. I encourage people to memorize passages so that it is in their bodies and things come out of that which they have never seen before. The test is: Is this serving what I want or what God wants?

a. In the message, Dre talked about the importance of keeping Scripture in its *context*. When you approach Scripture, do you tend to listen to your ideas and thoughts about a passage or do you first ask the Holy Spirit to *illuminate* its meaning? Explain.

b. In his quote, Willard mentions the incredible impact memorizing Scripture can have on our hearts. What thoughts or feelings—good or bad—come up for you about memorizing Scripture?

c. If you've used memorization in your study of Scripture, how has that impacted your walk with Him? Be sure to share your favorite ways of memorizing Scripture with your Life Group.

7. In *Hearing God*, Dallas Willard recommends using an exercise called *Lectio Divina*, which simply means “divine reading,” to slowly meditate on Scripture. Monks developed this practice hundreds of years ago and it includes the elements of reading, reflection, prayer, and contemplation. It can be used on any passage of the Bible, but for this study, we will reflect on **Psalm 19**.

As you begin this exercise, be sure to have your Bible and a journal with you, as you will be taking notes on how God speaks to you through this psalm. Allow at least 15-20 minutes for this exercise, following the prompts below and slowly moving through each.

a. With your eyes closed, take a minute to be still before God. In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” Embrace the peace of Christ and take a moment to rest in His presence. Clear your head of any distractions and focus your heart and mind on the Lord.

b. Read through **Psalm 19** twice slowly and allow the words to become familiar to you. Picture the scene and become a part of it. Listen to the Holy Spirit—notice the words and phrases that catch your attention and that seem illuminated. Write those down.

c. Reread the psalm twice slowly. What are you discerning? What are you feeling and hearing? Write those things down.

d. Write down the theme of this psalm.

e. Read the psalm again two final times. Contemplate what the Holy Spirit is saying to you through these words. Ask God, “How does this connect with my life today?” Ask, “What do I need to know or do in response to this psalm?”

f. Finish by praying to God. Pretend you are having a good conversation with an old friend as you tell Him what you believe this psalm is saying to you. You might thank God for something or make a request of Him. Be sure to write down anything else He shares with you.