

HEARING GOD

DISCERNING HIS VOICE

LIFE GROUP STUDY • WEEK 6

WEEK OF FEB 25



READING ASSIGNMENT

Hearing God – Pages 114-116a, 118b-120, 130b-131a, 133b-138a, 144b-150a



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we continued our *Hearing God* series and explored the different ways He speaks in a “still, small voice.”

As you begin the study, take some time to read and reflect on this passage that describes how God revealed himself to Elijah when he traveled to Mt. Sinai in search of a word from the Lord.

*Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire **came a gentle whisper.*** **1 Kings 19:11-12**



STUDY QUESTIONS

- Now that we are more than halfway through this series, take a moment to think through what you’ve learned.
 - What has been most helpful for you thus far in this series?
 - Has your view of hearing God changed from week 1? If so, how and in what ways?
- What stuck out to you most this week—either from Michael’s message or from the *Hearing God* reading? Why do you think that was highlighted for you?
- This weekend Michael gave three categories of how God speaks to us through *The Still, Small Voice*. They were:
 - *Inner Voice*
 - *Thoughts, Ideas, & Impressions*
 - *Spiritual Downloads*
 - Have you ever experienced God speaking to you in one of these ways? If so, which one? Which of the three has been the most common in your life?
 - If you have experienced *the still, small voice* in one of these ways, share one or two of your real-life examples.
 - This weekend, Michael shared the following quote from Dallas Willard:

The final means through which God addresses us is our own spirits—our own thoughts and feelings towards ourselves as well as toward events and people around us. This, I believe, is the primary subjective way in which God addresses us.

What is your initial reaction to this quote? Do you agree that this is the “*primary subjective way*” God speaks to us? Why or why not?

4. All throughout Scripture we witness God speaking to His people in clear and specific ways. **Read Acts 8:26-40.**

- a. At first an angel directed Philip, but then in verse 29 the Holy Spirit directed Philip. What did the Spirit tell him to do? Do you think He spoke in an audible or an inner voice? Explain.
- b. What was Philip’s response? How quickly did he obey?
- c. When you get a prompting, like Philip did, how quickly do you obey? Is your initial reaction to doubt and question or to move quickly to obey the Spirit’s leading?
- d. What would Philip have missed out on if he didn’t obey what the Spirit prompted him to do? How does that encourage you to listen and follow?

5. Reread page 131 of *Hearing God*. How would you explain the argument that Dallas Willard is trying to make here?

- a. Willard quotes 1 Corinthians 2:16 that says, “...*we have the mind of Christ.*” What do you think it means to have the mind of Christ?
- b. At the end of this section Willard says:

And we are able to use [God’s] knowledge of himself—made available to us in Christ and the Scriptures—to understand in some measure his thoughts and intentions toward us and to help us see his workings in our world.

How do you think our familiarity with God’s voice in Scripture affects how we are able to discern His voice when He is speaking to us?

6. Often, when people say they want to hear God, they are hoping that He will make it extremely loud and clear, but Willard argues against this approach on page 116. He says:

Unfortunately, this gentle low-key word may easily be overlooked or disregarded, and it has even been discounted or despised by some who think that only the more explosive communications can be authentic. For those who follow this view, a life of hearing God must become a life filled with constant fireworks from heaven. But that does not square with the actual course of daily life. This has, in turn, led many to attack dramatic visions and the like as illusions or even as automatically satanic. A cloud of confusion and mistrust spreads over the whole issue of hearing God’s voice. We can dispel that cloud if we examine and understand the many forms of God’s speaking in relation to each other.

- a. How have you seen yourself or others dismiss God’s voice because it wasn’t “*explosive*” enough? Explain.
- b. In what ways have you seen those trying to live with “*constant fireworks*” cause more damage and confusion for the body of Christ?
- c. What would be a more holistic approach to looking at how God speaks to us?