

HEARING GOD

DISCERNING HIS VOICE

LIFE GROUP STUDY • WEEK 7

WEEK OF MARCH 3



READING ASSIGNMENT

Hearing God – Pages 217-221a, 232b-237



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we continued our series *Hearing God* and began to explore this important topic of discernment: How can we distinguish between God's voice, our voice, or even the voice of the enemy?

As you begin this study, spend a few minutes reflecting on this passage. Write down anything the Holy Spirit highlights for you.

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **John 16:13-14***



STUDY QUESTIONS

- Before hearing this message, how have you discerned the voice of God in your walk with Him?
 - Michael shared a great story about how Christie Cox followed a nudge to visit CSUN, which later produced amazing fruit in her life. Have you (or someone you know) experienced something similar—where you sense God's leading, and you took a step of faith, and it led to good fruit in your life? Explain.
 - Can you think of a time when you thought you heard God's voice, but later realized it wasn't His voice after all?
- When you came to know the Lord, did you sense the Holy Spirit revealing to you that God was real, and that Christianity and the Bible were true? If so, explain.
- This weekend, Michael introduced two key questions to help us discern the voice of God in our lives. The first was: *The Message . . . Does It Align With Scripture?*
 - Have you—or someone you know—ever claimed that God is leading them to do or believe something that is clearly not in alignment with Scripture?

For example, maybe they are compromising their integrity in business because they believe God wants them to be successful, or they are embracing alternative spiritualities, new-age practices, or non-Christian worldviews. Or maybe they are having sex with their boyfriend or girlfriend and claiming God is okay with it because they plan to get married. If so, explain.

i. What were the consequences of that choice?

ii. How could you step into a situation like that and speak truth and grace into their life?

b. God's voice never speaks contrary to His principles found in the Word. What steps are you currently taking, or could you take, to get His Word more deeply rooted in your heart?

4. Michael's second question in the message was *Spiritual Intuition . . . Do I Have Peace About This?* He taught that this "peace" is not based on preference, emotion, or logic. It comes from the Holy Spirit, deep within the core of our spirit.

a. Thinking over your walk with Jesus, can you think of times when you have waited to receive God's peace over a decision before moving forward?

b. Has there been a time in your life when God called you to do something that was the last thing on earth you wanted to do, but you had an unexplainable peace about it? Explain.

c. Sometimes, we can make decisions based on our emotions. What do you think the difference might be between our emotions and spiritual intuition?

5. Read **John 10:1-18**. Be sure to write down any words or phrases that seem highlighted to you.

In the message this weekend, Michael shared that, in this passage, Jesus is explaining to the Pharisees that His followers intuitively sense His voice and follow His leading. Jesus also explains that His followers do not recognize and therefore run from a stranger's voice.

a. In your walk with Jesus, how would you describe the character qualities of His voice when you sense His leading? (e.g., gentle, tender, loving, compassionate, etc.)

b. In the following quote from page 236 in *Hearing God*, Willard explains one way the enemy attempts to derail our walk with God.

Satan will not come to us in the form of an oversized bat with bony wings, hissing like a snake. Very seldom will he assume any external manifestation at all. Instead, he will usually, like God, come to us through our thoughts and our perceptions. We must be alert to any voice that is in contrast with the weight, spirit, and content of God's voice, for that may signify that we are under subtle attack.

c. Have you ever sensed the enemy's voice in this way?

d. Based on your experience and the Word, list any potential character qualities of the enemy's voice. (e.g., lying, condemning, judgmental, tempting, etc.)

6. In **1 Corinthians 2:10-16**, Paul helps the Corinthian believers understand what they have been given in the Spirit, that they no longer need to approach life like non-believers. Read this passage.

a. What about these verses do you find reassuring?

b. In what areas of your life can you rely more fully on the Spirit within you for His insight and wisdom?

7. After engaging with the reading and this study, are there any changes that God might be asking you to make so that you can better discern His voice?

a. Write down anything He gives you and make that into a prayer, asking Him for the discipline and strength to follow through.