

## Listening to God's Voice

*This lesson is designed for a discipleship group to work through and discuss together. You may complete it on your own, but we encourage you to share what you learn with others in your community, whether that's a discipleship relationship, a close friend or family member.*

### Why Do We Need to Hear God's Voice?

Read the following verses:

- Psalm 25:4-5
- Isaiah 55:8-9

According to these passages, why do we need to hear God's voice? \_\_\_\_\_

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### How Does God Speak to Us?

Read John 16:12-15. What does this passage say about how God speaks to us? \_\_\_\_\_

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You receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is God alive in us, speaking to us to reveal more about who God is and His plans for our lives.

The Holy Spirit speaks in various ways:

- Through the Word of God, the Bible – He may bring up a passage you read earlier or remind you of a passage you've memorized.
- Impressions or Feelings – God may bring about an emotion, like peace, that you simply feel from the inside. This is the Holy Spirit addressing an internal issue, like anxiety.
- Mental Pictures – God may cause you to see an image in your mind's eye that has a significant meaning for you in the moment. Be sure to ask what the picture means and find out what else the Holy Spirit may want to reveal.
- Thoughts or Words – God may cause a thought or a particular word/phrase to enter your mind. Ask how you should apply that word in the moment.
- And more - God is not limited, so He can speak any way He wants through the Holy Spirit, directly to our hearts. Be open to hearing Him in ways you have never experienced before!

*Have you ever heard God's voice in one of these ways? Share that experience with your discipleship group. Ask others in your group to share a time they've heard God's voice and what it meant for them in the moment.*

## **How Do We Know We Hear God?**

Read John 10:2-5. Knowing that we are the sheep and Jesus is the shepherd, what does this passage say about how we interact with God's voice? \_\_\_\_\_

You can easily check everything you hear to make sure it is from God by asking these three questions:

- Does it align with Scripture?
  - God will not contradict that which He has already spoken.
- Does it align with God's character?
  - God's character is never-changing; He will not contradict His own nature.
- Does it align with your community?
  - Allow your community (other disciples of Jesus) to pray with you and submit what they hear – these things should all agree.

The only way to get better and feel more comfortable with hearing God's voice is to practice. The same way you can recognize your mother's voice because you've spent time listening to her for many years, you can grow to recognize God's voice by taking time to listen to Him each day.

*Practice listening to God's voice.*

*Simply quiet your heart and mind before God, and ask Him, "God, what do you think of me?"*

*Write down what you hear.*

*Share what you hear with your discipleship group and discuss together whether it aligns with the three questions above.*

Remember, the main goal of listening to God's voice is learning to recognize His voice. When we know God's voice, we can receive His Truth. The Holy Spirit will give instruction in the moment and meet a need with a simple word spoken directly to our hearts.