

Session 2: Why We Need to Hear God's Voice

REVIEW:

1. We need to hear God's voice because He is the KING!

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Lk 6:46)

- When God speaks as king, he has his kingdom in mind.
- His focus is on establishing his rule and accomplishing his plans on earth.
- God wants us to submit to Jesus as our king, but for Christ to truly function as our Lord and King, we need to hear his voice.

2. We need to hear God's voice because He is our FATHER!

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (Eph 1:4-5)

- When God speaks to us as king, he has his kingdom in mind, but when he speaks to us as our Father, he has us in mind!
- For God to truly function as our Father, we need to hear his voice.
- As our loving father, he often speaks words of assurance, comfort, counsel, guidance and protection.

3. We need to hear God's voice because He is our LIFE!

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " (Mt. 1:4)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Heb. 1:3)

I have come that you might have life and have it to the full. (Jn. 10:10)

- Jesus is both the author and sustainer of life.
- He created us to get our life by drawing on Him!
- For us to truly live, we need to hear God's voice

PRACTICUM: Meditation Question and Conversation

Exercise 1: Homework Sharing (From Session One)

Take a quick look through your devotional journal. Did you hear God speaking to you? What did he say?

Exercise 2: Meditate on Psalm 121

Step One: Carefully and prayerfully read Psalm 121. Don't be in rush. Take time to meditate and reflect on the psalm as you read.

Step Two: Select a word, phrase or verse that seemed to *catch your attention* (i.e. *jumped out at you, troubled you, convicted you, touched you, encouraged you, interested you*) and *draw you in*. Whatever that word or phrase was, write it down in your journal.

Step Three: Now look at that word or phrase and ask God why that word or phrase stuck out to you. Write down what God reveals to you. (i.e.)

- Was it a specific word of encouragement for something in your life?
- Was it a specific word of direction for something in your life?
- Was it a piece of wisdom you needed to hear in your life?
- Was it a special promise / rebuke / warning / blessing for you at this time?

NOTE: The reason we write down these words, thoughts, impressions and pictures is two-fold. First, we want to capture what God may be saying. Second, we want to focus our thoughts so that our minds don't wander.

Step Four: Begin a conversation with God by asking a question.

Look again at what you have written in the question above. Write down “G” (for God) in front of the words or phrases that you think may be from him. Trust that this may be the whisper of His voice. Next, re-write one of those phrases below starting with the letter “G:” Then, on the next line, write your initial, followed by a question or comment. This is the beginning of a conversation with God.

(i.e.) G: *“Keep looking to me, because that’s where you will find the help you need!”*
Y: *“Yes I know. Why do I struggle to do this?”*
G: *“Because you are too busy and distracted...”*
Y: *“What do you mean?”*

Note: There is no right or wrong in this exercise, so ask away. However, make sure you wait and listen for God to respond.

Step Five: Briefly share with another person what you received from the Lord. Then, pray for each other to grow in hearing God this week.

HOMEWORK:

1. Meditate and journal your conversation with God on the following Psalms this week:
Day 1 – Psalm 1
Day 2 – Psalm 19
Day 3 – Psalm 23
Day 4 – Psalm 24
Day 5 – Psalm 37
Day 6 – Psalm 42
2. Come prepared to share a “God Conversation” from your homework assignment.