

FREQUENCY

TUNING INTO GOD'S VOICE



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE. MAHALO!

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Created in humility and love by:



Small Group Curriculum Team

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OUR MISSION...

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Know God. Find Freedom. Discover God's Plans. Make A Difference.

OUR VALUES...

Services | Saved People Attend Services.

Regularly attending and inviting others to our weekly services is a vital part of God's mission for your life.

Small Groups | You Can't Do Life Alone.

The Christian life is more than a belief. It's belonging to God's family. Small groups meet during the week and provide encouragement, direction, laughs and support through the ups and downs of life.

Serving | Saved People Serve.

God shaped you to make a difference in this world by serving others with your gifts, talents, and interests.

Self-Feeding | Learners and Doers of God's Word.

The number one way God speaks to you is through His written word in the Bible. Reading and feeding on God's word daily is the common denominator for every great man and woman of God.

Stewardship | You Can't Out Give God.

We believe that we are all stewards (managers) of what God has given to us.



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INTRODUCTION

SERIES OVERVIEW

Hearing the voice of God. It's essential for a successful Christian life, but it can also be the source of frustration for many believers. "Why don't I hear God's voice?" "How do I know if it's really him speaking to me?" The truth is, God wants to speak to us. In this series, we'll learn to hear Him, how to recognize His voice, and how to respond!

The Ultimate Goal Of This Course

That in studying the word of God with others,
you will become more like JESUS!

Series Scripture

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
(John 10:27)*

Tips To A Successful Group

Host Tips

- 1. Make new people feel welcomed.** Take time to introduce new people.
- 2. Starting and finishing on time.** Doing this will show your small group you value their time.
- 3. Break out into smaller and/or same-gender groups.** This can increase more transparent conversations and provide more time for each person to join the conversation.
- 4. Shared learning.** Give advice from your own personal experiences rather than something you may have read from a book.
- 5. Plan something fun.** Try to plan something fun with all your group members, such as a day at the beach, movie night, etc.

Group Tips

- 1. Turn off or silence cell phones.** As a courtesy to those who are sharing in your group, please try to stay off your phones unless for emergencies.
- 2. Make group a priority.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by calling and/or texting your host.
- 3. Confidentiality is important.** If possible, what is said in small group, stays in small group. One motto groups use is: Share “nothing, to nobody, never” outside of the group.
- 4. No guilt, No shame.** This series is not meant to guilt or shame anyone into doing anything.
- 5. Avoid talking or teaching too much.** Small groups are designed for everyone to share and grow together.

FREQUENCY

TUNING INTO GOD'S VOICE



1. Preparing To Hear

Start with an Icebreaker Question



IF THIS IS A NEW GROUP OR THERE ARE NEW PEOPLE, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO **INTRODUCE YOURSELVES**.

To start off your small group, briefly share your response to the following question:

Do you have a “green thumb” or “black thumb”? What types of plants or flowers do you enjoy



Please Read What To Expect

Let's get a big picture of what we'll be learning today...

God wants to speak to each of us. But it's often difficult to hear him clearly. One of the most pressing issues of any Christian's life is how to hear God's Word, how to be sure it's Him speaking, and what to do when we hear him. In this session, you will learn about four different types of hearts and how to prepare to hear God's voice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At this time, please break into smaller groups of 2-4 for the discussion question section. Have a great discussion!

1.) “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Luke 8:8)

God wants us to hear his voice. That’s why he created us with two ears! But learning to hear the Word of God can be the most frustrating part of the Christian life. In fact, it may sometimes feel like God isn’t really speaking to us! However, we’ll usually find that the true problem isn’t God’s ability to speak, but our ability to hear!

Do you find it hard to hear God’s voice? Why? Share with your group.

2.) Jesus often taught in parables, stories which have a deeper meaning. One of His most famous parables is about a farmer who scattered seeds on the ground to grow his crops. Read the scripture below:

“One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear Him: ‘A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!’ When He had said this, He called out, ‘Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.’” (Luke 8:4-8)

As we read in this passage, not all of the seeds produced good crops. But the seed that did produced a hundredfold harvest! This parable is a great story, but the meaning behind it is even better! In Luke 8:11 & 15, Jesus eventually reveals to us that the seed in His parable is God’s Word.

What are some ways you can hear God’s Word and apply it more into your life? Share with your group. (*i.e. Read & apply the Bible, go to church weekly, memorize a scripture, etc.*).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3.) Jesus explained that the four types of soil mentioned in the previous scripture represent four types of hearts. Together, we'll take a deeper look into each of these four soils. Read the scripture below:

*"The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved."
(Luke 8:12)*

The "footpath" soil represents a heart that is polluted by sin. No one is perfect, and we are all tempted by sin at times. Not only can sin avert people from receiving Jesus, but it also muffles the ears of believers who want to hear God's Word.

How does sin keep us from hearing God's Word clearly? Share with your group.

4.) *"The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation."
(Luke 8:13)*

The "rocky soil" mentioned above represents an immature heart. Part of our spiritual growth is learning to speak to God and hear His Word. This is why it is so important to attend church, read God's Word daily, and get connected with other believers to help us in our journey of spiritual growth. Without discipleship and growth, we may never become good hearers.

What is ONE thing you can begin doing to help you grow deeper roots and hear God's Word better? Share with your group. (i.e. Read the Bible daily, seek wise counsel from older/mature Christians, etc.)

5.) *The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life.
(Luke 8:14)*

The soil of thorns represents a distracted heart. The world is full of things that can keep us from hearing God. When we focus on the riches and pleasures of life, we don't have time to listen to the message God has for us.

What are some things that might be distracting you from hearing God's voice? Share with your group. (i.e. wealth, popularity, skipping church, etc.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

“And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.” (Luke 8:15)

Finally, Jesus gives us the answer to preparing to hear God’s Word. The good soil represents the heart of a believer who is prepared to hear God’s voice. This is the prepared heart. Being good-hearted people prepared means we’ve repented of our sin, we’ve refocused on God, and we’ve revived our love for Him.

This week, consider the following action steps:

- **Commit to attending the remaining Sunday services and small group sessions of this series**
- **Pray and ask God to reveal to you any area(s) of your heart that might have bad soil**
- **Complete the devotional entries for this week**

CLOSE IN PRAYER



Take a few minutes to close your time together with prayer and to pray for each other’s prayer requests. Below is a sample prayer to read if you choose to. You can also choose to write down each other’s prayer requests to remember throughout the week.

Sample Prayer:

“God, thank You for everything we learned and discussed in this small group session. We are so grateful that You choose to speak to us. Help us to prepare our hearts and minds to hearing what it is that You’re trying to speak to us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Group Prayer Requests:

Name

Request

Find Time To Read God's Word

The Power of Feeding on God's Word Daily

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

As we read God's word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing daily devotions re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Doing devotions is an excellent way to record, process, and share what God is speaking to you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the “gems” that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget God's promises and some very important life lessons! While doing devotions is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to share some of your daily devotions with your family, friends, co-workers, or small group. Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insights, and even encourage others.

Sample Devotion

SCRIPTURE

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Luke 8:8)

OBSERVATION

These words from Jesus remind me that He wants to speak to me, but it’s up to me to listen. He has given me what I need to be able to hear God’s Word. Will I do what needs to be done to tune in?

APPLICATION

I know that there are times when God wants to speak but I put him on hold. I have more important things going on in life at that time, like work or even television. But if God wants to speak to me, then I should be willing to listen – any time! I know I have to be more prepared to hear him when he is speaking.

PRAYER

God, thank You for speaking to me. I know that You want to. Will You help me listen better? Prepare my heart today to hear Your word when You speak. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE...

*“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
(Hebrews 4:12)*

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

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SCRIPTURE...

“So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” (James 1:21)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

SCRIPTURE...

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...

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SCRIPTURE...

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” (John 4:27)

OBSERVATION...

APPLICATION...

PRAYER...
