

HEARING FROM GOD

Being close to God means communicating with him, which is almost always a two-way street. In our ongoing friendship with God, we tell him what is on our hearts in prayer and learn to perceive what he is saying to us. It's this second part of our conversation with God that many find to be so difficult or even unapproachable. How can you be sure God is speaking to you? The answer is that we learn by experience. The key is to focus more on building our personal relationship with our Creator and less on individual actions and decisions.



WHEN YOU MEET:

Week starting Monday 24 February

Connect:

- Spend some time greeting and welcoming each other.
- We are intentionally not getting to the 'how' of hearing God too early to allow us to understand the 'why'.
- It's important to flag at the start of the series that 'hearing from God' can be difficult because we all come with different histories and experiences.

Pause & Pray:

Take a few minutes to pause and clear your mind, letting go of what may be filling your heart and mind. Share with God what's going on for you at this moment. Allow Him to remind you that you are at home in Him and His immense love for you. He doesn't need anything else from you right now – just your stillness. Pray, asking God to speak to each person through the time together as we reflect on God's word.

Summary:

The Scriptures repeatedly show that God communicates with His people.

Read & re-read the passage:

Read a selection of Scriptures, slowly:

- Genesis 1
- Exodus 33:7-10
- John 10:27-28
- Hebrews 1:1-4

From the readings, what stood out to you? Be encouraged that God may be speaking to you through His Word – the Scriptures.

MORE RESOURCES: PODCASTS

- 'Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' – John Mark Comer
- 'How to Pray' + 'How to Hear God' – Pete Greig
- 'Beholding' – Strahan Coleman





Questions:

1. Many people pray regularly. What comes to mind when you hear something like 'hearing God'? There are no wrong answers here.
2. How does the creation account in Genesis 1 and 2 reveal God's desire for a relationship with humanity? What thoughts come to mind when you consider Adam and Eve's interaction with God in the Garden of Eden?
3. Why do you think God asked Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" Do you believe God speaks to us so caring and casually today?
4. We know His Word says God is always close, and through Jesus, there is nothing that separates us from Him. However, we don't always experience that in our relationship with Him. Where are you at, at the present moment, in your relationship with God? (e.g. close, distant, indifferent, estranged, etc.) Again, there are no wrong answers.
5. Between now and the next time we meet, spend some unhurried time telling God what is going on in your life at the moment. Consider journaling or writing down your thoughts to reflect on later

Pause:

Spend a couple of minutes quietly reflecting on what resonates with you and what you will take into the week with you. If you are planning to reflect on question #5, when do you plan to do that?

Pray: Share prayer points and pray for one another.

Finish with this written prayer:

Read Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, because he is the Father of all who have chosen to walk in the way of Jesus. Holy is your name, distinct from any other. King of kings, but of a kingdom both here now and not yet fully revealed. Gift me today with everything I need for today. Forgive me for the ways I have sinned against you. Set me free from the temptations and idols of my heart. Deliver me from all that is evil.

Jesus, will you make these words alive to me again today? Give me the confidence to know that you care about my daily bread, attend to my debts, and free me from temptation. Let me trust that in your presence, I am delivered from evil.

Holy Spirit, I pray for a renewed sense of belief and trust that your words hold life, authority, and power.

I think of a friend I know who is struggling to pray, struggling to believe that your kingdom is good. I pray particularly for someone who is doubting their faith. Will you give them a renewed vision of your holiness and goodness

Father, be first in my heart today. Before I attend to my own needs and worries, anchor me in your holiness and power. Let me see all my daily needs through the expectation of your loving care.

Amen