

Finding Direction

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- ☐ I will practice spiritual breathing this week.
- ☐ I will breathe out what is toxic inside of me — worry, problems and fears.
- ☐ I will breathe in love, joy, peace, guidance and wisdom from the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ I will be open, sensitive, listening, and responsive to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This week we continue our series “The God I Never Knew” with a message on receiving guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit really does speak to ordinary human beings like you and me.

The truth, that the Spirit speaks, may be hard to believe. We don't always hear well, or sometimes we hear but don't understand. Like mishearing the lyrics to a song, sometimes the Spirit's words seem muddled and confusing. But, the Spirit speaks and this week we are going to understand how the Spirit speaks and how we can engage so that we begin to understand and know the God we never knew.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This week we are exploring the Spirit's work in our lives. What do you think the purpose of the Holy Spirit is for your faith life?

2. Matt begins the sermon by reflecting on the fact that God really does talk to us. What do you think of that statement? Do you believe it? Have you ever had an experience in which God spoke to you?

3. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust that God speaks to us?

4. In 1 Samuel 3 God was speaking to Samuel, but Samuel didn't recognise the voice of God. It is possible for God to speak, and it is probable that we won't hear it. What does this story teach you about God? What does this story teach you about yourself?

5. Matt notes that listening to God is a learned behavior. What do you do to listen for God's voice? How do you recognise when God is speaking?

6. We are encouraged to know God and know the Spirit more by engaging in listening to and for God. Matt notes that the first step in practicing listening is to know and experience God's voice. When we know someone we can hear them in our heads; I am sure that you can hear your Mother's voice, or read a Presidential speech in the president's accent. Experience and repetition helps shape how we hear things. How can you become familiar with God's voice?

7. How does engaging and experiencing God's voice, learning to hear His voice, shape your faith? How does knowing God's voice help you draw closer to Him and away from the negative or false voices in your life?

8. After we learn to listen to God's voice we get to learn the second step, conversing with God. Matt notes how he does this through engaging in prayer. How does engaging in conversation with God shape your faith?

9. How does a prayer life help as you learn to listen to the Spirit?

10. God is never silent, He moves and speaks in ways that are small and in ways that are mighty. What area of life do you want God to speak into this week? How can you engage in speaking and listening this week?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- ☐ I will be still before the Lord and listen.
- ☐ All week long, my prayer is going to be, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”
- ☐ I will listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit when I’m speaking to people.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Numbers 22:21-31
- John 14:23
- John 10:4
- Luke 24:31-32
- Romans 8:16

Prayer Request(s)
