

LIFE GROUP LESSON April 15 to April 21, 2018

To Whom Are You Listening? [Part 2](#) (John 14:26; 16:13)

● **WELCOME** God's People (15 minutes)

● **WORSHIP** God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise). You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

● **Live by God's WORD** (45 minutes)

In the midst of our electronic generation of instant communication, information, and entertainment, is anyone listening to God?

He wants to communicate with us and has been speaking ever since creation. In the Old Testament, He spoke through prophets, In the New Testament, through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2). He continues communicating now through the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). The issue is not whether God is speaking, but if we are listening.

Our ears are tuned to whatever holds our hearts and minds. If this world is our main focus, we'll hear its messages. However, if our hearts are set on Christ, we'll take time to quietly listen for His guidance and instruction. But many people have never learned to discern His voice.

How can we identify God's voice?

When we can't discern whether we're hearing from the Lord or from our own minds, look for these marks of distinction:

** **His voice will be consistent with His Word.** Whatever He speaks in our hearts must match what He has spoken on the printed page.

** **His message will often conflict with human nature.** Sometimes the Lord may require of us something that seems beyond our abilities. But, He is faithful to enable us.

** **It will always clash with fleshly ideas.** God never leads us into activities or relationships that contradict His Word.

** **The Lord challenges our faith.** Because He wants us to grow in faith, God sometimes calls us to face our fears and trust Him more.

** **His voice is often quiet.** Instead of answering our prayers in dramatic ways, the Lord often speaks to our hearts quietly and unexpectedly in the normal course of the day.

** **He speaks specifically.** The Lord loves us so much, he wants us to know exactly what He's saying.

Why do we need to listen to the Lord?

He'll guide us and provide what we truly need:

** **To make decisions.** Because God is interested in every aspect of our lives, He wants to guide each choice we make.

** **To be encouraged.** No one can encourage our hearts like the Lord, but we have to listen to Him, or we'll miss it.

** **To receive comfort.** Sometimes we just need to be reminded that He loves us unconditionally and is always ready to help us through difficult circumstances.

** **To be strengthened.** Whenever we need the will, determination, and confidence to keep going, God can strengthen us.

** **To know the Father's will.** When we're seeking to understand His will, we must stop talking and listen to hear His voice.

** **To receive God's best.** The Lord always does what's best when we heed His instructions.

** **To have assurance of salvation.** The only way to silence doubts is to listen to the Lord. He saved us once for all time and eternity.

** **To benefit from His protection.** When we follow the Lord's guidance and make good choices, He protects us from wrong relationships and activities.

What are the consequences of failing to listen to God?

** The world will draw us away from Him.

** We'll be easily deceived by all the other voices.

** We will make costly decisions based on human reasoning rather than divine guidance.

** We'll make choices that appeal to the flesh.

** Our decisions could cause us to forfeit God's best and all that He wants us to have.

** We'll miss out on the will of God for our lives and suffer consequences that could affect us for years.

** Wrong decisions hurt families. Everyone suffers when one member refuses to follow the Lord's guidance.

** There will be eternal consequences. For unbelievers, their eternal destiny is at stake. But Christians who ignore God's voice will lose heavenly rewards.

Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth

1. How can you implement a daily strategy--beginning today--to purposefully listen to God?
2. How can your friends, family, and church be of assistance to you in your endeavor?
3. Share an experience of you listening to God.

●Impact God's WORLD (20 min)

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:

1. Share: ●any planned group activity ●important church announcements ●next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

CLOSING –

Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.