



# LISTENING TO GOD

*“He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught” (Isaiah 50: 4).*

## CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN SOMEONE REALLY TOOK TIME TO SIT AND LISTEN TO YOU?

Can you remember what it felt like?

What difference did it make to you?

## SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US

If you are doing this study in a group, share with each other any experiences you have had of hearing God speak to you. (Note: it may not have been audibly, but by some other way!)

What was it like for you to experience God speaking to you?

## READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE AND NOTE THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US.

Numbers 12:6-8

John 10:14-16 and 27

Acts 9:3-4

Joel 2:28

Genesis 40:6-8; Matthew 27:19

John 16:13

Acts 16:6-7

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Revelation 1:9-10

Matthew 2:13

Psalm 8

*“God did not finish speaking to us when the Scriptures were completed ...God is the living God, the God of today; and every day he wants us to enjoy a living relationship with him, involving a two-way conversation“. (David Watson)*

## WHAT DOES GOD ASK OF US?

Matthew 17:5

Revelation 2:7

*Bible Study by Major Jo-anne Brown (AUE)*

I hope that you enjoy the Senior Adult Discipleship material that we will be producing throughout the year. This has been done in response to requests from older adults in both Australian Territories. Seniors from both Territories have written these studies and we are happy to co-produce this series.

The topics *Seniors - ‘Agents of Change’*, *‘Let Eternity Shape Your Future’* & *‘Going Deeper, Getting Right’*, have been chosen to speak to the adult generations. These Bible Studies are designed to be used individually, but can equally be used in the group or corps setting. Individuals/Groups that like to forge ahead and get a whole study done in one sitting can do that, but you can also work at a slower pace just using one of the sub-heading per day/week.

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## HOW DO YOU THINK GOD FEELS WHEN WE DON'T LISTEN TO HIM?

Jeremiah 7:13

## WHAT MAKES IT HARD FOR YOU TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD?

Consider the story of Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:1-23)

Does this say anything to you about how we listen to God?

## WE NEED TO CULTIVATE A LISTENING EAR

There are some things that make it easier for us to hear God:

→ Desire for intimacy

→ Silence

*“God speaks to those who keep silence“ (Charles de Foucauld)*

→ Obedience

*“I pray, I listen, I obey“ (David Yonggi Cho, Korea, 1958)*

→ Discipline

→ Listening together with others

→ Journaling

→ Developing an awareness of His presence throughout the day

Which of these things do not come easy to you?

Read through the list again. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to work on anything in this list?

You might like to find one or two others that you can share with and encourage each other to start listening more effectively to God.

## GOING DEEPER

**It is important to check out what you are hearing to make sure it really is coming from God.**

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

**Learn to recognise the source:** is what I am hearing coming from the Holy Spirit, my own spirit, the world around me or the evil one?

Know the Word: Ps 1:2

*“Try all things by the written Word and let all bow down before it“  
(John Wesley)*

God will not tell us anything that contradicts what He has already said in His Word.

## TRUSTED FRIEND/MENTOR

Think of one or two people that you could trust to help you discern God's voice more clearly.

## HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU LISTEN TO GOD:

→ Find a regular time and a place

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- Discover what posture works best for you: sitting, kneeling, walking, etc
- Think of some creative ways to deal with distractions (quietly repeat a favourite bible verse every time your mind wanders, write down things that come up that you don't want to forget, etc)
- Phasing into stillness—light a candle, play some music, make a cup of tea/coffee as a way of slowing yourself down and coming into quietness
- Preparing to listen—recognise that your time with the Lord is not just about you talking to Him, but about Him talking to you.

Consider this list and reflect on ways that you can apply these tips to your time with God.

## SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

- What is God saying?
- What is God giving (saying) to me personally?
- What is God asking me to take from this time with Him into the world?

*Joyce Huggett, p.207*

Look back over this Bible Study. Note the things that have touched your heart or challenged your thinking.

What will change in your life because of what you've read or thought about in this study?

What would you like to see happen?

Make a commitment to take some steps to see this happen and share this commitment with someone you trust.

*“Listening prayer may not give us cosiness. It will bring us into wholeness, the shalom which is the integration of body, mind and spirit“.*  
(Joyce Huggett, p. 211)

Huggett, J. (1986). *Listening to God*. Hodder and Stoughton: London  
Watson, D. (1981). *Discipleship*. Hodder and Stoughton: London

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