



How to Hear God

Small group notes – Week 2 – GOD’S WORD IN PRAYER

Note to Small Group Leaders & HOSTs

Welcome to week 2 of How to Hear God! This week we are exploring how to hear God’s word in prayer.

This week, you’ll hear from Andy & Rob in 2 parts. The first part is an introduction to prayer as a way to hear God speak. Following that there will be an opportunity to share in groups.

In the final video Andy & Rob talk a little bit about discerning God through prayer. After this we’d love you to give this a go in groups. This idea is for this to lead directly into ministry time.

Welcome

Welcome everyone & introduce yourselves.

Worship

Every good thing starts in God’s presence.

Take some time to worship together. Ask someone who can play a guitar or another instrument, if they will lead your group in some live worship or if that’s not possible, choose a couple songs from one of our playlists: [Youtube Playlist](#) [Spotify Playlist](#)

Key Bible verse

“32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”” Luke 24:32

“The Bible is meant to be prayed and lived, not just read and understood. When we read the Bible, we’re invited into conversation and prayer is our response.

Our prayer lives are at their best not when we talk to God about big things occasionally, but little things continuously.” Pete Greig



Video – Part 1 (9 mins)



Discussion Questions (20 minutes)



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God speaks in the ordinary and the unusual. What are some of the different ways people hear God's voice in the bible?

Rob shared a bit about his upbringing where hearing God speak was not an everyday occurrence. What is your experience of hearing the voice of God?

Pete Greig says that our prayer lives are at their best not when we talk to God about big things occasionally, but little things continuously. Have you experienced the conversational kind of prayer with God that Pete describes? What did God's voice sound like?

Are there situations in your life where you need to pray the scriptures? What situation are you currently facing and what scripture could impact your current situation?



Video - Part 2 (3 mins)



Discernment (20 minutes)

It's a real gift when others listen to God for us. In our groups now, we want to spend some time doing just that. We all face situations in life where we need to discern what God is saying.

You may want to do this as a big group, but it may be easier to break into 3-4s if your group is bigger.

So ask, who in your group needs some wisdom from the Lord? (maybe someone is exploring changing job, moving house or stepping into a new area of ministry?)

Remind people of some of the ways God speaks to us that Rob & Andy shared in the video.

Invite Holy Spirit to come, then wait.

Encourage those praying to keep their eyes open (physically!), expecting to see what the Lord is doing, and expecting the Lord to speak. Probably helpful for the person being prayed for to close their eyes to minimise distraction.

Spend a few minutes waiting, then take it in turns to share. Some may find this easier than others



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so don't put pressure on people to share if they don't feel comfortable.

Encourage the person being prayed for to stay engaged with the Lord as people share. Often people disengage at that point. It can be helpful to say something like: "Stay engaged with the Lord, stay present to Him, as we share some things we sense Him saying. No need to say anything or pray anything, just stay present to the Lord"

Next, ask the person if what is shared resonates with them does it resonate with you?

Afterwards, take some time to pray for the individual. (see ministry below). You may wish to pray for them immediately or alternatively see if others would appreciate some discernment and then pray for everyone at the end.

This is a helpful checklist as we discern what to share:

- **Affirming** – is it strengthening, encouraging, comforting, edifying and uplifting (see 1 Cor. 14)
- **Biblical** – Is it consistent with the bible as a whole?
- **Christlike** – does it sound like the kind of thing Jesus would have said and feel like the kind of person he was?

Ministry (15 minutes)

Then move into prayer ministry time.

There may be things that have come up as you've shared. Take some time to invite the Holy Spirit, praying for each other for a fresh in-filling of His presence, knowing that His power is in His presence.

Prayer ministry time is for prayer ministry not intercession, but what's the difference?

Maybe someone shares that they have a difficult meeting at work tomorrow. Intercession is praying for the meeting, and that's OK. But in our small groups, we want to do ministry. We believe that God's Kingdom is near and can break in at any time, including now. So what does the person need? Wisdom, peace, courage? Ask the Holy Spirit to release these to the person now wherever they are!

A model that we find helpful is **Ask-Pray-Ask** as we aim to pray in the way Jesus taught us.



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ASK – ask the person what they’re asking Jesus to do for them

And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do

PRAY – like Jesus did, pray your best prayers. Invite the Holy Spirit to come, and then wait. As pray-ers, let’s keep our eyes open to see what the Holy Spirit is doing

ASK – what’s happening? If the pain was a 10 out of 10 when they walked in tonight, ask them what they would score the pain now? What are the next steps? Thank God and ask for more. You may find it helpful to go through these steps 2-3 times.

If you’re reading the book...

Read chapter 3 of How to Hear God

Next week

Encourage your group to be part of a Sunday service for the next talk and to come back next week.