

The Habit of Learning to *Listen* to the Right Voice

“The Habits of Making Jesus Known”

Psalm 46:10; John 14:25-26

September 23, 2018

BIG IDEA

Today we'll investigate the importance of listening as we seek to develop habits of missional living. In order to have an impact on others, I want you to learn how to listen to truth, to divine wisdom, to God himself. It's vitally important that you understand how to listen to the right voice.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context for Psalm 46:10:

This section of scripture greatly encouraged Israel, and believers of all ages, that God is powerful. It is a call for trust in God's power as we wait silently to hear his voice of comfort and strength.

Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Context for John 14:25-26:

In order for the ministry of Jesus to be fully understood, the Holy Spirit must interpret his words and deeds. It is through the counsel of God's Spirit that we are able to discern God's direction as we make Jesus known.

John 14:25-26

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

- a. **Do you feel that time with God brings a sense of peace and stillness to your soul? What do you do to cultivate time with God?**

- b. **How does time with God help us to know who we should be telling about Jesus? Pray as a group that each member will set aside time with God and grow spiritually.**

3. The Holy Spirit Enables You to Hear the Right Voice

John 15:25-26 – “But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’²⁶ But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

The role of the Holy Spirit is to lead you to truth. It is to point you to Christ. Listen to his voice and you will become closer to Jesus.

John 16:13: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

- a. **Who is the Holy Spirit? Sometimes we call Him an “it.” For a better understanding of his divinity, read Acts 5:3-4 (below). Discuss what you learn from this passage.**

Acts 5:3-4 – But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”



- b. **If the Holy Spirit leads us to Christ, can we find Jesus without him?**

- c. **Listening to the voice of the Spirit takes time and practice. Spend a few minutes in silence, right now, in your group. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each individual. Ask: “God, who is it that you want me to engage for the cause of the gospel?” Listen. Report what you hear.**

4. Don't Navigate These Waters Without Scripture

John 15:25-26 – “But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’²⁶ But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

Check everything you think you're hearing against the truth of the Bible. The Holy Spirit illumines the Bible for us so that we can think and act in ways that help bring people to Christ.

Sinclair Ferguson is a well-respected Scottish theology professor. He says: “The result of the Spirit working with the Word of God to illumine and transform our thinking is the development of a godly instinct that operates in sometimes surprising ways. The revelation of Scripture becomes, in a well-taught, Spirit-illuminated believer, so much a part of his or her mindset that the will of God frequently seems to become instinctively and even immediately clear—just as whether a piece of music is well or badly played is immediately obvious to a well-disciplined musician. It is this kind of spiritual exercise that creates discernment... God's Word, illumined by God's Spirit is...the pathway to spiritual stability and liberty.”

- a. **How often do you read the Bible? Do you think you can make good judgment calls without scripture enabling and directing you? What happens when you forsake the Bible?**

- b. **As a group, help each other make a commitment to reading the Bible each day.**



5. Ways to Practically Apply Listening to the Right Voice

Here are some practical ideas that will help you learn to *listen to the right voice*:

a. Set Aside Designated Time

Commit to creating at least one space per week in order to spend time with God alone and uninterrupted.

b. Avoid Distractions

c. Develop An Organized Bible Reading Plan

Don't waste precious time by deciding what to read. Plan ahead. Follow a system. Work through a book of the Bible a chapter a day.

d. Follow God's Promptings

The key to developing a habit of listening is moving forward when God prompts you. When he puts a face in front of you, begin to pray for that person. Look for ways to strike up a relationship. Live for Jesus in front him/her for the glory of God!

PRAY

Lord, thank you for prayer. Thank you for the opportunity to listen to the God of the Universe. Help me to be still. Help me to hear the Holy Spirit above the clutter of life. I love you. I want to spend time with you. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*](#) – a book from Michael Frost (NavPress)
- [*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship With God*](#) – a book from Dallas Willard (InterVarsity Press)
- [*Listening to the Spirit in the Text*](#) – a book from Gordan Fee (Eardmans)

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The Habits of Making Jesus Known: "Learn" (Psalm 119:105)

