

Made for More Hearing God

More is found as we hear and follow God's voice (John 10:1-10). Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and each of us as His followers – as His sheep – can and should know His voice. Hearing the voice of God, however, is not automatic; it is something we must learn and grow in. The primary way God speaks to all people throughout history is through the *Bible*. It is not merely a book to be read, but it is God's voice to be heard. Every other means of hearing God is filtered, tested, and discerned through the Bible. Another important way God speaks is through *impressions*, which is a thought or idea that comes from Him. All impressions should be consistent with the Bible and generally provide specific guidance on how to fulfill a Biblical command or principle. Often impressions are contrary to how we normally think and require us to rely on God for strength and courage. Impressions from God also lead us to love Him and others more. In whatever way we hear God, it is not enough to simply affirm that He speaks. We must *desire* to hear His voice and position ourselves to receive what He wants to say.

GET THINGS STARTED

- What did God stir in you this past week through the *Purify Workbook*? What did He possibly show you concerning pride or rebellion in your heart? What part of your identity in Christ do you find most challenging to embrace or affirm, and why?
- If you talk to God, you're religious; if God talks to you, you're psychotic.* – Gregory House from the TV show *House*. Why do you think our culture often balks at and mocks the idea of hearing God, that God speaks?

WATCH TESTIMONY VIDEO: WEEK 5

GO DEEPER

1. What resonated with you from the testimony video?
2. What does it mean that all Scripture is *God-breathed* in 2 Timothy 3:16, and how is it useful? How is the Word of God *active* and *living*, according to Hebrews 4:12?
3. Nehemiah 2:12, Haggai 1:14, Mark 2:8 and Acts 14:9 are all examples of people in the Bible who experienced an *impression* from God. How can we know today if an impression is from Him, or if the stirring of our spirit is His doing?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Do you believe that God speaks to you, and that you can actively hear His voice? How would you rate your capacity, and desire, to hear His voice?
2. What has God spoken to you this week, or recently? How do you know it was the voice of God rather than the voice of the enemy, the world, and/or your own sinful flesh?
3. In addition to hearing God through the Bible, have you ever had an *impression* from God (either for yourself or for someone else)? What was that experience like, and how did it play out?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time to deliberately try to hear from God. Using Psalm 23 (God as our Shepherd), have someone read the psalm out loud to the group. Then give the group 2-5 minutes to ask God individually and quietly what He wants to say to them through this psalm. Playing some soft worship music in the background may be helpful during these few minutes. Then come back together and have the group share with each other what they sensed God was saying or revealing.

PURIFY WORKBOOK – FOR THIS WEEK

Session 5: Truth vs. Counterfeit