

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

Does God Still Speak?

God has created us for an intimate relationship with Him. That has been His desire from the beginning. It was true back then, and it is still true today. The question is: are you listening? Do you put yourself in the right frame of mind or posture so you can hear Him when He is speaking to you? Paul knew all the commandments, followed all the laws and had a zeal for God, yet he didn't recognize God's voice on the road to Damascus. Read Acts 9:1-9.

A Posture for Hearing from God:

1. **Love God with your whole being.**

So many of our problems would be resolved if we stopped focusing on the problem and started focusing on just loving Jesus. It is easy to say, much harder to do. By spending time with God and focusing on Him instead of our problems, we will learn His voice. It's not loud, forceful, or condemning; it's gentle and patient. Do you believe that God speaks to you? Share your beliefs and give some examples. Have you ever questioned whether or not the answer to what you have been praying for was really from God? How did you resolve that dilemma?

John 10:27; John 15:9-11; 1 Corinthians 1:9

2. **Believe that God wants to speak to me.**

The prophets and patriarchs of the Old Testament are no more important than we are. God wants to speak to us just like He spoke to them. Many believers have a disconnect between what they read in the Bible and what they believe God can do now. Believing is faith that God loves you and wants to guide you through His Word and His voice. Share some ways you believe God speaks to you.

Exodus 3:4-6; Genesis 15:1; James 5:15-16; Hebrews 11:6

3. **Understand that hearing doesn't make you righteous.**

Perception is a dangerous thing. You may think you have clear direction from the Almighty, but you need to exercise caution if it has to do with another person. Your message is not automatically justified because you say, "God told me." Have you ever experienced a time when someone told you that they had a message from God? How did you react? If you haven't experienced that, how do you think you would react to someone telling you that they had a message from God for you?

Hebrews 10:23-24; James 3:13

Make it Real

- Practice removing distractions from your mind in your quiet time with God.
- Write down all the ways God could speak to you.
- Pray for faith and wisdom to recognize God's voice.