

DISCUSSION GUIDE



January 30/31, 2016

BIG IDEA: To follow Jesus is to listen to his voice.

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take Next Steps together. A Next Step is any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

KEY VERSE

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

1. The abundant life is only available to those who lean in and listen to God's whisper. While there are clear guardrails in our lives, there are a lot of things “in the middle” that God wants to personally say to us. We have freedom in Jesus, but not everything is helpful or beneficial. (**Psalm 32:8; 1 Corinthians 10:23**)
2. We can't base what God wants to say to us on what He has said to someone else. What's helpful for us today might be harmful for the person sitting next to us. (**Galatians 5:25; Proverbs 12:15**)

Here's how we follow Jesus: “I asked, He said __, therefore I will __.”

3. **Ask God what He wants to say.** (**Matthew 7:7-11**) When we ask Him to speak, it communicates that we have three things: 1) *faith that He speaks* -- which activates the ears of our heart (**Hebrews 11:1**), 2) *desire for His wisdom* (**Proverbs 2:6**), and 3) *humility to value His voice* (**James 4:6**).
4. **Listen to His voice.** (**Isaiah 30:21**) Active listeners will hear things that casual listeners never will. (**Mark 4:9**) The condition of our heart determines whether God's voice takes root and produces fruit. (**Mark 4:13-20; Jeremiah 29:13**)
5. **Respond with obedience.** (**Mark 4:24-25**) God speaks to those who steward His words well. Whatever we do with what He said yesterday will determine what we will hear tomorrow. If we haven't heard His voice in a while, we should go back and do the last thing He asked us to do. Unused revelation will always lead to a hard heart (**Hebrews 3:15**) that is deceived (**James 1:22**). We are blessed when we obey what we hear (**Luke 11:28**), deciding to obey before He even speaks. (**Luke 1:38**)

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

If you haven't heard God speak to you lately, continue pursuing Him passionately and believe He will speak to you soon. Listen for thoughts that are loving, peaceful, and comforting. If you have heard Him clearly before but aren't now, go back and do the last thing He said to you.

DISCUSSION

1. What has God whispered to you over the past few weeks? Have you found it easy or hard to hear His voice during this series? (See your journal.)
 2. Have you been an “active” or “casual” listener with God lately? How has that impacted your ability to hear Him over the past few weeks? (See point #4)
 3. What have you been doing with what God has been saying? How have you put them into action already, or what still needs to be put into action? (See point #5)
 4. In what area of your life do you need to say to Jesus, “My answer is YES; what's the question?” (See point #5)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
 - **What is your Next Step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a Next Step?
Share with us at groups@valleycreek.org