



"This week we kick off a new sermon series. The early church faces persecution for preaching about what they've seen and heard. In this series we will look at what the response of the disciples was as well as focus on what we've seen and heard and how we might be encouraged to bear witness to that reality in our day-to-day lives."

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

God Encounters: Share some way you saw God interact in your life this week.

MEMORY VERSE:

Job 13:1

"Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it."

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 4:13-22

"19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Exodus 3:7

"Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings..."

Exodus 4:31

"And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped."

Luke 2:20

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

Luke 7:22

“And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.”

Acts 22:15

“for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.”

Philippians 4:9

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

1 John 1:1-3

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through the verses in Exodus that talk about God being the one who saw and heard the plight of His people and responded. Why is it significant that the first time this phrase is used in the Scriptures, it is used about God seeing and hearing and it driving Him to action on our behalf?
2. When the Messiah comes, the first thing the shepherds do is go forth and share about what they’ve seen and heard. When John the Baptist struggles with trusting in God’s plan, the disciples are encouraged to share with Him what they’ve seen and heard. The disciples find themselves tasked with bearing witness about what they’ve seen and heard. Paul says that disciple of Jesus should practice what they have seen and heard in him. This “seen and heard” thing is a complicated thing. Consider the following questions regarding things “seen and heard” in the Scriptures:
 1. Who is the witness for? Is it only those who don’t know Jesus?
 2. What is the purpose of what is “seen and heard” in our witness of the Lord? Is it multi-faceted?
 3. When what is “seen and heard” is shared (bearing witness) what is the expected outcome for those who “see and hear” about what is “seen and heard”? (Hahahaaa! That’s a fun question!)

LifeGroup Curriculum

10/23/22

4. Ultimately, what is “seen and heard” by everyone, all of us? What is it we are bearing witness to? How does sharing what we’ve “seen and heard” become a missional movement?
3. What have you seen and heard... start thinking about that before next week. :)

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.