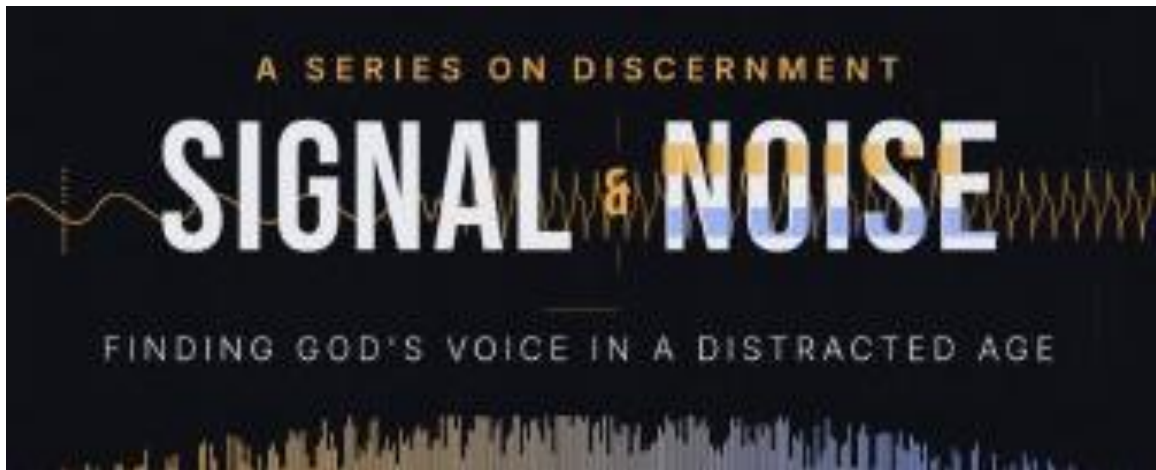




Part 2: Discerning the Voice of the Lord

Small Group Guide: Discerning the Voice of the Lord

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to help you hear God's voice more clearly this week.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you heard someone's voice and immediately recognized who it was without seeing them. What made their voice so distinctive to you?

Key Takeaways

1. **The Frequency of Heaven:** God's voice resonates with our spirit at a frequency we can learn to recognize, even when other voices compete for our attention.
2. **The Journey from Information to Wisdom:**
 - Information → Knowledge → Discernment → Wisdom
 - Discernment is the bridge that makes wisdom productive and God-glorifying
3. **God's Gentleness Makes Us Great:** The Hebrew word *anava* reveals that God shapes us without shaming us, meeting us in our smallness to bring forth greatness.

4. **Divine Affirmation:** Just as the Father spoke over Jesus at His baptism, He speaks over us—affirming our identity, belonging, and purpose.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Sermon

1. The sermon suggested that the Fall might have been "a fall from the frequency of heaven." What are your thoughts on this idea? How might spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, and worship "align our frequency" with God's?
2. In 1 Kings 22, Jehoshaphat heard 400 prophets say one thing, but sensed he hadn't heard from the Lord. Have you ever experienced a situation where everyone around you said one thing, but you sensed God saying something different? How did you navigate that?
3. What's the difference between hearing information about God and actually hearing God's voice? Can you share an example from your life?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon described God's voice as "loud and clear" but clarified this means clarity, not necessarily volume—often coming in stillness. When have you experienced God speaking most clearly to you? What were the circumstances?
5. Which aspect of God's gentleness (humility, shaping without shaming, patient formation, power becoming love) do you most need to hear right now? Why?
6. The pastor said, "I know God loves me, but I don't know if he likes me" describes some people's relationship with God. Have you ever felt this way? What would change if you truly believed God delights in you?

Going Deeper

7. In John 12:28-29, some heard thunder while others heard God's voice. What factors might determine whether we recognize God's voice versus just hearing "noise"?
8. The sermon mentioned that when churches stopped gathering for worship during COVID, chaos increased in culture. Do you think there's a connection between corporate worship and the spiritual atmosphere of a community? Why or why not?

9. The video showed a newborn baby calming at her father's voice. How does this image change your understanding of how God speaks to you in moments of fear or uncertainty?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Frequency Alignment

Set aside 15 minutes each day for silence and stillness. Ask God, "What do You want to say to me today?" Journal what comes to mind.

Option 2: Discernment Audit

Take one decision you're currently facing and walk it through the process:

- What information do I have?
- What knowledge/categories does this fit into?
- What is God saying about this? (Discernment)
- What wise action should I take?

Option 3: Identity Affirmation

Each morning this week, speak aloud: "[Your name], you are God's beloved son/daughter. He is well pleased with you." Notice how this affects your day.

Option 4: Gentleness Reflection

Identify one area where you feel shame rather than God's shaping love. Bring this to God in prayer, asking Him to reveal His gentleness in that specific area.

Group Activity

Listening Prayer Exercise (15-20 minutes)

- Have each person write down a question they'd like to ask God
- Spend 5 minutes in silent prayer, asking God to speak
- Share (only if comfortable) what you sensed God saying
- Pray for one another based on what was shared

Memory Verse

"You have also given me the shield of your salvation and your right hand upholds me and **your gentleness makes me great.**"

— Psalm 18:35

Closing Prayer

Pray together that each group member would:

- Develop greater discernment of God's voice
 - Experience God's gentleness in areas of shame or fear
 - Align their lives with the "frequency of heaven"
 - Remember their identity as beloved children of God
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Looking Ahead

This sermon is part of a series on discerning God's voice. Encourage group members to:

- Listen to the previous week's sermon on learning discernment (1 Kings 22)
 - Come prepared next week to share how they practiced hearing God's voice
 - Consider how baptism (or their own baptism) relates to hearing God's declaration over their life
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may have difficult relationships with their earthly fathers, especially since this was a Father's Day message
- Create space for silence—don't rush through the listening prayer exercise
- Affirm that hearing God's voice looks different for different people
- Remind the group that discernment is a skill developed over time, not perfected immediately

