

CrossPoint Community Guide

Ancient Practices: Listening to God | An Open Heart to Hear

DINNER & DELIGHT 45 minutes

- How have you encountered God this week? What has the Holy Spirit said as you've spent time in the *Listening to God* guide?

LEARN & STUDY 25 minutes

Read together: 1 Kings 19v9-13, Luke 1v26-38, Mark 14v32-36

- What three postures of a listening heart do we see in these passages?
- What do you notice about how God speaks to Elijah in his exhaustion and discouragement?
- What did Mary's question and response to God reveal about her heart posture to listen and obey?
- Jesus is honest with the Father about his desires but ultimately submits to the Father's will. How did Jesus' openness lead him to fully surrender and obey?

Take-home Truth – Listening to God depends on the heart you bring to him.

PRACTICE & IMPLEMENT 40 minutes

- When you pray, are you asking God for *guidance* or *approval*? How do you know?
- **Dependent:** A dependent heart desires the voice of God, practices abandonment, and perseveres in prayer. *In what ways do you need to recognize and confess your need for God's help?*
- **Humble:** A humble heart keeps God before your eyes (fear of the Lord), refuses God nothing, and lives in loving submission to other Christians in community. *Where do you need to allow the Word of God, Spirit of God and people of God to change your mind about something that matters to you?*
- **Open:** An open heart is attentive, pursues intimacy with God, and waits expectantly without an agenda. *What are you holding back from God that you need to invite him into?*

This week, engage in the **Ancient Practices: Listening to God** guide (week five). Scan the QR code for the digital guide.



- God, what are you saying to me? How are you inviting me to listen and respond in faithful obedience?
- Pray: *Jesus, you know where I'm resisting you. Thank you for loving me enough to bring me near. Make my heart dependent, humble and open. Help me trust you with my life. Give me grace to follow through on what you've already made clear. Amen.*

REFLECT & PRAY 10 minutes

- Pray for God to grow dependence, humility, and openness in each of our hearts. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us courage to pray, *God, whatever you want, wherever you want, whenever you want, and whatever the cost, I'll obey.*
- What is one takeaway from your time in community today?

➡ **NEXT WEEK:** 1 Thessalonians 5v19-22