

## Watch before you begin

Scan to watch the Lesson 4 teaching video — a 12-minute companion to this lesson.

## MY FIRST YEAR IN CHRIST • LESSON 4

# Listening to God

### BIG IDEA

God speaks to you through his Word — and he isn't testing you on the parts you don't get yet.

### CORE SCRIPTURES

*The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.*

— Psalm 19:7-8

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

— 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### KEY CONCEPTS

Fill in the blanks as you read or as your group works through the lesson.

1. Most new Christians expect God's voice to be interior — a nudge, a whisper. But the most reliable way he speaks is the same way he has spoken for thousands of years: he put it in a \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. Paul's picture in 2 Timothy 3 is closer than "approved by God." The words of Scripture are God's own \_\_\_\_\_ , preserved on the page.
3. Reading the Bible isn't research. It's \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The dry days don't mean God has stopped speaking. They mean you're a normal human reading the Bible at a normal \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. James says hearers who never intend to do anything tend to \_\_\_\_\_ .

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Work through these questions as a group. There are no wrong answers here — only honest ones.*

### ► OPENING — LOW STAKES

1. Before this lesson, what did you expect "hearing from God" to feel like? Where do you think that picture came from?
2. What's been your honest experience opening the Bible so far — confusing, dry, alive, intimidating, all of the above?

### ► CORE — HEART OF THE LESSON

3. Have you tended to come to the Bible looking for something — information, a quick lift, a verse for a problem? What would change if you came expecting to be addressed by God himself?
4. Three habits showed up in this lesson: show up regularly, read things more than once, do something with what you read. Which one is hardest for you right now, and what makes that one the hard one?
5. James says hearers who never act tend to forget what they saw. Name one thing you've recently read — or heard taught

— that you haven't done anything with yet. What's the smallest step that would change that?

► **DEEPER** — FOR COURAGEOUS GROUPS

6. The dry days, the confusing chapters, the nothing-happened-today feeling — what have you been telling yourself those mean about you? Where do you think that voice came from?
7. Is there a passage — even one verse — that has “talked back” to you so far? Surfaced when you needed it, or stuck with you longer than you expected? What was it doing in that moment?

## JOURNALING

*Set aside 15-20 minutes with these prompts. Write honestly — no one grades these.*

**1** Write about a time you “expected to hear from God” and didn't — or did, and weren't sure what to do with it. What were you expecting? What did you actually get? What did you decide it meant about you?

**2** Pick one Gospel — Mark, Luke, or John — and commit to reading one chapter a day this week. Write down which one, and why you picked it. Name what usually gets in the way of you actually doing it. Pick one specific time of day you'll try.

**3** Reread Psalm 19:7-8 slowly. Of the four phrases — reviving the soul, making the inexperienced wise, making the heart glad, making the eyes light up — which does your life right now most need? Write about what that phrase is already doing, or what you wish it would do.

## **THIS WEEK**

Read one chapter a day from a Gospel — Mark, Luke, or John. Ten minutes is enough. When something lands, write a single sentence about it. When something calls for a step, take one small step that week. Skip the parts you can't track yet, and come back later. You're allowed to be a beginner.

**Core Scriptures:** Psalm 19:7-8 • 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **Want to go deeper?**

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## **ANSWERS**

*Fill in the blanks as you read or as your group works through the lesson.*

1. Book
2. Breath
3. Listening
4. Pace
5. Drift