

# Hearing His Voice

Connect Group Guide - 6.7.26

## Opening Prayer

### Ice Breaker

Share a time when you clearly heard someone's voice in a crowd because you knew them well. What made their voice recognizable to you?

## Key Scripture

- **Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)** *“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”*

## Message Recap

This message explores the life-changing reality of the Holy Spirit living within every believer. More than a force or feeling, the Holy Spirit is God Himself, present to guide, empower, and transform our lives. We are reminded that the Christian life was never meant to be lived in our own strength, and that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in us. When we move beyond simply knowing about the Holy Spirit and begin walking in relationship with Him, fear gives way to boldness, weakness becomes strength, and ordinary lives become powerful vessels for God's glory.

## Key Takeaways

### 1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, Not an “It”

- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity—fully God
- He speaks, leads, convicts, comforts, empowers, and transforms
- The same Spirit that hovered over creation and empowered Jesus lives inside every believer

### 2. The Holy Spirit Gives Power for Living

- Without the Holy Spirit, worship becomes routine, ministry becomes exhausting, and Christianity becomes powerless
- Activity cannot replace the anointing
- The Holy Spirit transforms fear into boldness and weakness into strength

### **3. The Holy Spirit Speaks in Multiple Ways**

- Through God's Word (the Bible)
- Through conviction (not condemnation)
- Through peace (or the disturbance of peace)
- Through a whisper that requires closeness

### **4. Hearing God Requires Relationship, Not Perfection**

- The more time we spend with God, the more familiar we become with His voice
- God whispers because whispers require closeness
- Delayed obedience is disobedience

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Holy Spirit**

1. Before this message, how would you have described the Holy Spirit? Has your understanding changed?
2. Read Romans 8:11. What does it mean to you personally that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives inside you?
3. Pastor mentioned that many believers "know about the Holy Spirit but do not truly know Him personally." Which category do you fall into? Why?

### **Recognizing God's Voice**

4. What are the different ways the Holy Spirit speaks according to the message? Which way have you most clearly experienced?
5. Discuss the difference between conviction and condemnation. Can you share a time when you experienced each?
6. Pastor Mike shared that God whispers because whispers require closeness. What does this tell us about God's desire for relationship with us?

### **Obedience and Surrender**

7. Read Galatians 5:16. What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit" in practical, everyday terms?
8. The message stated: "The Holy Spirit doesn't fully guide a life that's never fully surrendered." What areas of your life have you struggled to surrender to God's control?

9. What is the difference between wanting Jesus as Savior versus accepting Him as Lord? How does this distinction show up in daily life?

## **The Marriage Ring Analogy**

10. Pastor Mike used a marriage ring as an analogy—saying the ring doesn't make him married; the covenant does. How does this apply to our relationship with Christ?
11. What "fruit" should be evident in someone's life who has truly surrendered to Christ? (See Galatians 5:22-23)

## **Practical Applications**

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE

### **Option 1: Closeness Practice**

- Set aside 10-15 minutes each day for quiet time with God
- Turn off all distractions
- Read a passage of Scripture slowly
- Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through it
- Journal what you sense Him saying

### **Option 2: Obedience Inventory**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where you've been delaying obedience
- Write down what He brings to mind
- Take one concrete step toward obedience this week
- Share your progress with an accountability partner

### **Option 3: Peace Check**

- Throughout each day, pause and ask: "Do I have peace right now?"
- When you notice your peace is disturbed, stop and pray: "Holy Spirit, what are You trying to tell me?"
- Keep a log of what you discover

### **Option 4: Voice Recognition**

- Spend time reading the Gospels to learn how Jesus spoke and acted

- As you face decisions this week, ask: "Does this align with what I know about Jesus from Scripture?"
- Practice filtering thoughts through the question: "Is this conviction (come back to God) or condemnation (you're worthless)?"

## **Prayer Requests & Closing**

### **Leader Notes**

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting