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Teaching Handout: Uncommon Wisdom: Discerning the Voice of God

John 10:27 (NLT) – “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

I. Four Keys to Discerning God’s Voice

1. Identity: You Belong to God

- Hearing God begins with knowing you are His.
- You are not striving to get His attention—you already have it.

Reflection: Do I see myself as Jesus’ sheep, known and loved by Him?

2. Assurance: You Are Known

- God knows you intimately and is personally invested in your life.
- His guidance flows from love, not distance.

Reflection: Where do I need to trust God’s nearness instead of fearing I’ve missed Him?

3. Listening: Be Intentional

- God speaks through His Word and the Holy Spirit’s inward witness.
- Listening requires stillness, prayer, and openness to obey.

Reflection: What daily habits can I establish to listen to God through Scripture and prayer

4. Obedience: Follow What You Hear

- True hearing is validated by action.
- Obedience sharpens discernment.

Reflection: What has God already spoken in His Word that I need to obey today?

II. Marks of God’s Voice

- ✓ Aligns with Scripture – God will not contradict His Word.
- ✓ Produces Peace, Not Confusion – The Spirit’s witness brings deep inward peace.
- ✓ Leads Toward Christlikeness – Reflects Christ’s character and fruit of the Spirit.
- ✓ Confirmed by Godly Counsel – Wise believers affirm the leading.

III. Barriers to Hearing God Clearly

- Noise – Overexposure to media, opinions, and distractions
- Sin – Unconfessed sin dulls spiritual sensitivity

- Fear – Anxiety drowns out the Spirit’s peace
- Impatience – Demanding immediate answers instead of trusting God’s timing
- Ignoring the Word – Neglecting Scripture removes the foundation
- Quenching the Spirit – Disregarding the inward witness

IV. Personal Reflection Questions

1. What is one area of my life where I need clearer guidance from God?
2. Am I spending consistent time in God’s Word to hear His instructions?
3. When have I experienced the Holy Spirit’s inward peace confirming a decision?
4. What barrier (noise, sin, fear, impatience) is most hindering my ability to hear God right now?
5. What is one step of obedience I can take this week based on what God has already spoken?

Challenge

- ❖ Daily Scripture: Read a portion of God’s Word each day, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
- ❖ Moment of Stillness: Spend 5 minutes in quiet prayer, listening for the Spirit’s inward witness.
- ❖ Act on Obedience: Identify one clear instruction from Scripture and obey it this week.
- ❖ Test the Peace: When facing decisions, ask: “Does this bring the peace of Christ, or does it stir unrest?”

Model Prayer for Discernment: Lord, thank You that I am Your sheep and You know me. Help me to listen to Your voice through Your Word and the inward witness of Your Spirit. Give me courage to obey what You reveal and peace to trust Your leading. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Discerning God's Voice in a Specific Situation

Use this worksheet as a model when you need uncommon wisdom for a particular decision or challenge.

Step 1: Define the Situation Clearly

Write down the decision, challenge, or question you are facing. Be specific. Example: "Should I take this new job opportunity?" or "How should I respond to this conflict in my family?"

My Situation:

Step 2: Search the Word of God

Ask: What does Scripture say about this situation?

- Look for biblical principles, commands, promises, or examples.
- Use a concordance, Bible app, or study Bible if needed.

Relevant Scriptures:

Biblical Principles I See:

Step 3: Listen for the Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit

Ask: What is the Holy Spirit saying to me inwardly?

- Spend time in quiet prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak.
- Pay attention to the peace or unrest you feel about each option.

My Prayerful Reflection:

Peace or Unrest about Each Option:

Option A: _____ (Peace / Unrest / Unclear)
Option B: _____ (Peace / Unrest / Unclear)
Option C: _____ (Peace / Unrest / Unclear)

Step 4: Seek Godly Counsel

Ask: What do mature, trusted believers' advice?

- Share the situation and what you've heard from Scripture and prayer.
- Look for confirmation or wise correction.

Counsel I Received:

Step 5: Test Against the Marks of God's Voice

Review each option using the four marks. For each option, check whether it:

Option A:

- ☐ Aligns with Scripture
- ☐ Produces Peace
- ☐ Leads Toward Christlikeness
- ☐ Confirmed by Counsel

Option B:

- ☐ Aligns with Scripture
- ☐ Produces Peace
- ☐ Leads Toward Christlikeness
- ☐ Confirmed by Counsel

Option C:

- ☐ Aligns with Scripture
- ☐ Produces Peace
- ☐ Leads Toward Christlikeness
- ☐ Confirmed by Counsel

Step 6: Make a Decision in Faith

- ✓ Choose the option that best aligns with Scripture, brings peace, leads toward Christlikeness, and is confirmed by counsel.
- ✓ Trust that God will guide you even if uncertainty remains.

My Decision: _____

My Next Step of Obedience _____

Date I Will Take This Step: _____

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