

Small Group Guide: IGNITING YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH - Understanding How God Speaks

Opening Question Since Pastor Dan mentioned National Ice Cream Day: If you could only eat one ice cream flavor for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Opening Prayer *God, thank You for bringing us together. We want to grow in our ability to hear You and recognize Your voice. Help us to be open, humble, and grounded in Your Word as we discuss this message. Give us wisdom, encouragement, and practical next steps tonight. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

God still speaks. God is alive and active, and He communicates with His people in different ways.

The Bible is the primary way God speaks. Every impression, circumstance, or word from another person should be tested against Scripture.

God speaks through teachers and other believers. God can use sermons, Community Groups, friends, mentors, and everyday conversations to encourage, correct, or guide us.

God can speak through impressions, but they must be tested. Not every thought is from God. Some thoughts come from pride, selfish desire, or even the enemy.

God speaks through circumstances. God is always at work, and sometimes He uses situations, opportunities, conversations, or timing to get our attention.

Hearing God's voice protects us. God speaks to turn us away from wrongdoing and pride and to help us avoid unnecessary pain.

Staying connected to Jesus leads to fruitfulness. A productive spiritual life comes from remaining in Christ, not from trying to create fruit on our own.

When God speaks, we should respond. The danger is hearing God's voice and then hardening our hearts or ignoring what He has shown us.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Job 33:14.**

“For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it.”

What does this verse teach us about God’s willingness to speak and our need to pay attention?

2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

Pastor Dan said the Bible is the primary way God speaks to us. According to these verses, what does Scripture do in our lives?

3. Why do you think it’s important to test our thoughts, impressions, and decisions against the Bible?

4. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.**

Paul says the people received the message “not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God.” How can God use other believers, pastors, teachers, or Community Group conversations to speak into our lives?

5. **Pastor Dan warned that impressions can come from God, our pride, or the enemy.** What are some wise ways to discern whether an impression is truly from God?

6. **Read John 5:17-19.**

Jesus paid attention to what the Father was doing. What might it look like for us to pay attention to God’s activity in our circumstances?

7. **Read John 15:5.**

Jesus says, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” What are some signs that someone is remaining connected to Jesus in daily life?

8. **Pastor Dan said one of the worst mistakes we can make is to hear God speak and do nothing with it.** What are some simple ways we can respond when God brings conviction, encouragement, or direction?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Spend consistent time in Scripture.**
Choose a Bible reading plan or start with the Gospel of John or the book of James this week.
2. **Test impressions before acting.**
Before making a major decision, ask: "Is this consistent with Scripture? Does this reflect humility? Have I sought wise counsel?"
3. **Invite trusted believers into your decisions.**
Share big decisions with mature Christians who know God's Word and can help you discern wisely.
4. **Pay attention to circumstances.**
This week, look for God's activity in conversations, opportunities, interruptions, or repeated themes.
5. **Respond quickly to God's prompting.**
If God convicts you, encourages you, or gives you a next step, don't ignore it. Take one obedient step.

Memory Verse for This Week

Job 33:14

"For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it."

Closing Prayer *God, thank You that You are not distant or silent. Thank You for speaking through Your Word, through other believers, through impressions, and through circumstances. Help us to recognize Your voice, test everything with Scripture, and respond with obedience. Keep us connected to Jesus so our lives can be fruitful. In Jesus' name, amen.*