

New Beginnings

- **Week 3:** Learning how to listen to God and hear his voice and how we are created for community and called to serve.

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Purpose

- To learn power of salvation
- The power of the word
- Faith walk of new Christians

Central Questions

- What does the verse say?
- What does the verse mean?
- What does this verse mean to me?

Plan

- May 4: Reviewing your decision to follow Jesus and what it means
- May 11: Reading the Bible and learning what God thinks and understand how to pray and talk with God.
- May 18: Learning how to listen to God and hear his voice and how we are created for community and called to serve.
- May 25: Learn how we are called to worship and praise God Learning how to share the good news of Jesus.

Scriptures

- Jeremiah 33:3, ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’
- Philippians 4:9, Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
- Psalm 34:4, I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
- Psalm 85:8, I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly.
- Proverbs 1:33, but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Listening - Hearing what God has to say

Everyone that has ever prayed to God has wanted a clear answer to some request or question. Often those answers are not what we expect or when we expect them. The key to finding and understanding those answers is making time to listen to God. We have to be very intentional when we listen so we actually hear what God is saying. The Bible talks about how Jesus found time away from everyone else to just be with God.

Spiritual quiet time often is mixed in with prayer and reading the Bible. That means finding a quiet place where you can settle your heart. It means turning off all the things that compete for your attention. When we focus solely on connecting with God and hearing what He wants to share is when we receive direction, hope and answers.

Listening - Hearing what God has to say

There is no set time or formula for doing this or for guaranteeing results. Once you are in the habit of listening and find what works best, you should take note of three things:

- (1) The time of day it is best for you to do this.
- (2) The place you are most productive meeting God.
- (3) The activities such as prayer, Bible reading, music and other things that get you most focused on God. As you learn what works best in these three areas, you need to commit to doing this in a way that is most likely to be honored by God.

Reading the Bible - Learning what God thinks

- Ask the following three questions:
- What does the verse say?
- What does the verse mean?
- What does this verse mean to me?

Scriptures

- Acts 2:42-44, 42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 12:21-31, 21The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:15-16, 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- 1 Peter 4:10, 10Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
- Hebrews 10:24, 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

Understanding the importance of community

- God did not design you to live alone. We are all created for community. We are stronger when we are living with others and not trying to do life alone. This is especially true as a new believer. You need other believers around you to encourage, teach, pray and worship with you. Your decision to follow Jesus is an awesome event in your life. Think about who you know that is a follower of Jesus and share this with them. Ask if you could talk with them more about their faith journey.
- The Bible's original Greek word for church is translated as gathering or assembly. The idea being that followers of Jesus would gather to live in fellowship with one another. They would be united by Jesus, study God's word, love one another, encourage each other through difficult times, help each other grow closer to Jesus and live as a Christian family.
- Another aspect to community is the concept of serving the "body of Christ." The idea is that each follower of Jesus is part of the universal body and we each serve a different purpose that together makes us whole. We are called to care for one another and recognize that if one suffers we are all hurting.
- We should think about how to use our time, our talents and our treasure to serve God. You have a role on this community of believers and you need to spend time thinking what it may be. This coming together and serving the greater good is how we flourish and serve God well.



Thank You, God Bless You!