

PRACTICE FOUR

THE STILL, SMALL VOICE

BEFORE YOU LEAD

For the best experience in leading your group through discussion, it is important for you to preview the session's video so you can familiarize yourself with the content, session outline, and discussion questions. It is also worth taking a few minutes to consider how to make this work within your group's timeframe.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome everyone. Pray to begin.

Say: Over the last week, we were supposed to read through four passages and spend time reading the word, praying, and journaling.

1. What did this week's practice look like for you?
2. What about this week's practice was valuable or difficult for you?

Transition: Before the video, encourage everyone to get their pencil/pen and notebook/journal out to take some notes. The title of this session is The Still, Small Voice. We will also be watching a 9 minute bonus video afterward.

VIDEO (28 Minutes) *Start Video @ 2:00 mark*

DISCUSSION

This week the convo may take some of its own direction. Don't feel like you have to use each and every question, but you can use the following sets of questions as a guide.

Read 1 Kings 19:9-13

1. Check out the chart on the back. What are your thoughts about how God speaks?

Dallas Willard explained that the three lights (circumstances, impressions of the Spirit, and Scripture) were tools to understand what God is saying, but are limited.

1. Have you heard of these three lights before today?
2. What did you think about the limitations of the three lights Dallas mentioned (inadequate for conversational dynamic)?

Dallas Willard describes the three critical components of hearing from God as tone, spirit, content.

1. Which of these have you personally experienced to be true/of value?
2. What are your thoughts on these three?

At the end of the discussion Richard Foster reads the following quote from Thomas Kelly, "Life from the Center is a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It is amazing. It is triumphant. It is radiant. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time. And it makes our life programs new and overcoming. We need not get frantic. He is at the helm. And when our little day is done we lie down quietly in peace, for all is well."

1. What sorts of small shifts need to take place in your life rhythms to make space to listen for the still, small voice of God?
2. How can we pursue this and involve one another as a community in this?

THE PRACTICE PROMPT

Each practice week, we will be providing a practice prompt for everyone to do on their own throughout the week. We want to invite and encourage each of us to make space to read, reflect, and use each passage as a journaling/written prayer prompt before our next practice week. Specifically starting this week, we want people to begin to take a few moments of silence at the end of their reading and prayer to invite God to speak. In the bonus video for this session (which you are welcome to watch!) Willard talks about how he goes about making space and aiming to hear from God. We have included those below the scriptures for the week.

1. John 10:27-30: The sheep know His voice
2. Matthew 14:23: Jesus prays alone
3. Matthew 6:9-13: The Lord's Prayer

Willard's Approach is:

1) asking God to speak, 2) watching for what happens over the next few days, 3) listening for a particular kind of thought, 4) if the thought is unclear, ask for clarity, 5) if it seems you are hearing nothing – ask if there is anything inside of you preventing you from hearing, 6) if nothing is heard at that point consider that the decision might be yours to make.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

This is a great time to pray for one another and for what's going on in each person's life. Also pray that each person would listen for God's voice.



| Ask God to Speak | Watch | Listen for Thoughts | Seek Clarity | Look for Blocks | Make Decision |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Is there a question you want answered? A decision you need to make? | Watch for what happens over the next few days. | Is there a particular, recurring thought that you are having? | If you feel unclear ask God for clarity | Is something preventing you from hearing God? | If you don't hear anything at that point consider that the decision is yours to make |