



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on November 21, 2021

Sermon: Hearing God's Voice
Text: Multiple Passages

Gathering Guidelines

Take some time to worship

This week you are being invited to worship the Lord in *silence*.

This can be very tricky for us to do because we are so deeply trained to fill in every space and time with sound and activity. But being still and silent before the Lord is an excellent way to honor God.

Set aside 3-5 minutes of silence (you choose the time length).

Determine that when your mind wanders (and it will!) that you will bring your attention back to God.

Honor Him by simply purposing to stop everything and be in His presence.

If nothing 'happens' don't consider it a failure, but instead an expression of honor and respect to your heavenly Father.

Discussion Questions

Below you will find the 'mission' from last week's House Church gathering. I have copied it below:

"Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. His desire is that more and more people would be blessed and enjoy Him in their lives as well. As a House Church take some time to pray and then throughout the week pray and ask Jesus to show you who He might like to invite into your House Church so they can meet Him too. Then next week share the name/names of people that the Lord showed you."

Talk within your group about who the Lord showed you to invite into your group.

It's possible you forgot to do this (it might not be a habit for you yet), or maybe you tried and got frustrated. . .whatever the reason might be. . .don't let this go for your group.

Pray again now and ask the Lord to help you really engage this question. . .it's something that is very important to the Lord and He wants you to know who He is trying to reach out to.

Question #1: In the sermon last Sunday, we heard that God really wants to engage in a two-way conversation with each of us.

Read 1 John 3:1 and then ask yourselves why is this passage important in helping to understand more about God speaking to us? (It might seem unconnected but try to read between the lines).

Question #2: Read John 10:2-5. Do you recognize the Shepherds voice? What thoughts come to mind when asked this question?

Question #3: Read John 14:15-17. The Holy Spirit is actually God *present* in us. And His role is to help us. As 'the Spirit of Truth', what do you think He wants to help us to more clearly understand?

Additional Question: 1 John 3:1 talks about how 'lavishly' the Father has poured His love onto you. If you could ask God one question about this what would you want to ask?

Hearing God's voice should be interpreted broadly. It might be better to say that God 'communicates' to His children. A foundational way in which He speaks is through His words in the Bible. Is the Bible something that is central in your walk with Jesus? Why or why not?

Additional Question: For many of us (If I'm going to be brutally honest. . .) we may feel that the Bible is a dusty old book that doesn't really seem connected to my life, and that the Holy Spirit doesn't seem to help me much at all.

Do you think that God wants to make life with Him so complicated that we will never really 'figured this all out', or do you really believe that He wants a simple and beautiful relationship with you?

Question #4: Read John 14:25. If God wants us to hear Him speaking to us through the Holy Spirit, and if His job is to teach us all things. . .then do you think that we must play a role in learning how to *listen* to Him? How do you think we could actually begin to learn to listen to Him better?

Additional Question: God is making it clear that He wants to communicate with us. Ask yourself an honest question: do you *want* to communicate with Him? Why or why not? (Try and be as honest as possible. Let your group support in where you are really at. . .)

Question #5: Maybe you struggle with being able to hear God communicate with you. Sometimes it can feel as though something is ‘blocking’ this from happening. Take some time now to try this exercise to discover a new way forward:

If it seems that you have trouble hearing God’s voice (or Him communicating with you) then:

- 1. Ask Him to show you what the blockage is.
Pray and simply ask Him to reveal to you what is holding you back from Him. Wait on Him and then evaluate.
(If it seems you received nothing, it may be possible that someone else in your group heard something from God on your behalf. If that’s true, then be very sensitive in what and how you share this with the group.)**
- 2. Ask God to show where this blockage came from.
For example, if it’s ‘shame’, then ask Him where this shame came from. . .**
- 3. Ask God how to remove it.
It might be simply to ask Him to remove it in Jesus’ name.
It might involve repentance.
Whatever He reveals ultimately it is meant to set you *free*.**

Invitation and Mission for this week

Learn how to hear God’s voice.

Take time every day to ask God to reveal something to you.

It might be something as simple as “God please show me what joy looks like today.” Or it might be a specific issue or challenge that you need an answer for. Whatever it is, allow some time to ask Him specific things and give Him an opportunity to respond to you.

Next week at your House Church share with your group what things the Lord revealed to you.

Pray for each other