

Hearing From God | Week 1: February 16 and 17, 2019



Weekly Check In

2 minute share:

- BLESS update - who have you prayed for, listened to, ate with, served, or shared your story with this week?
- Share something God has been highlighting to you through your Daily Encounter.

This Week's Big Idea: How *Not* to Hear From God

What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?

Group Interactive:

- What are some false ideas you have had in the past about how to hear from God?
- Share a time where you feel like you heard from God. If you haven't, share that frustration or questions you have about what hearing from God looks like.

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

Acts 2|36-38 ³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’ ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ ”

- According to this verse what happens through baptism?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit assists in our ability to hear from God?

1 Samuel 15|1-3 & 9 ¹“Samuel said to Saul, ‘I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. ² This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. ³ Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys’... ⁹ But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.”

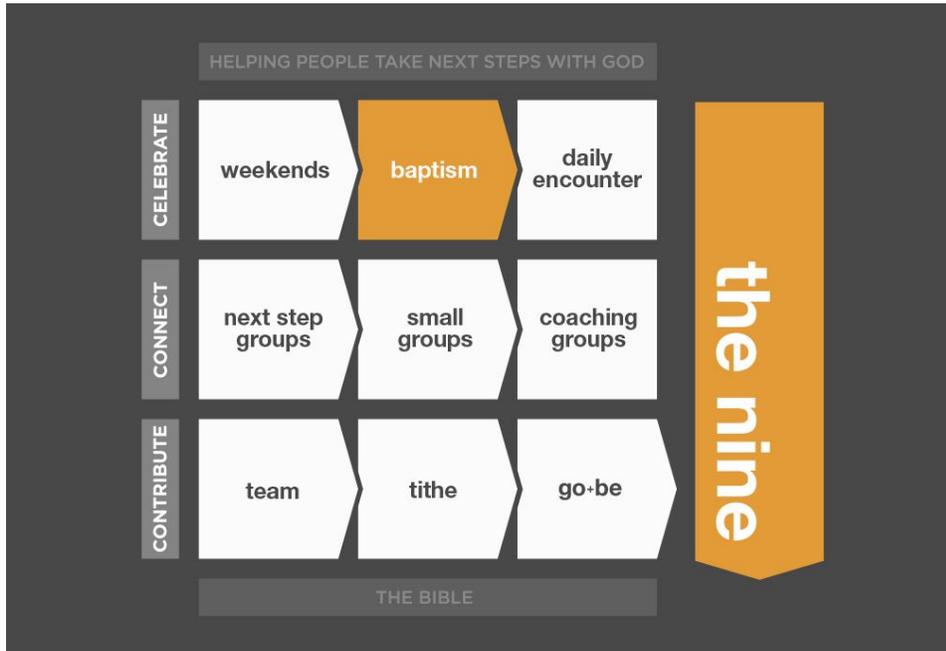
- How was Saul disobedient in the passage above?
- Share an example where you knew you weren’t walking in obedience to God.

2 Timothy 1|6-7 ⁶“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

- Share a time when you felt God calling you to use your gifts, share the Gospel, show love to someone, serve radically, etc. and responded in obedience.
- How were you feeling *leading up* to that? What were your feelings or emotions *afterwards*?

small groups

Next Steps: We have a very unique opportunity to talk about Baptism this week. Although we don't know when we "receive the Holy Spirit," we do know that scripture teaches that it is guaranteed through baptism. The idea that the the gift of the Holy Spirit allows you to hear from God more clearly is Biblical and specific. Baptism is an act of obedience to do as Jesus commanded and a commitment of following His leading in your life.



Hearing From God | Week 1: LEADER GUIDE

This weekend's teaching was discussing how NOT to hear God's voice and how we don't act upon what He does say to us. This lesson is set up to address three types of people: (1) Those who don't feel like they've heard from God, (2) Those who hear God but don't fully obey, and (3) Those who hear God and need to be encouraged to step out and follow.

Group Interactive

1. This question is very open-ended, but if you have some people in your group who grew up Catholic or religious, there might be a huge thought that only the priests or a pastor can hear from God and communicates that to the "congregation." But we see in scripture that many people hear from God despite their leadership Role or Status. (Esther, Job, Paul, Moses, Haggai, Mary, Isaiah, Samuel)
2. As your group is being missional, there may be those in your group who are still searching and may feel like they have never heard from God. Allow this question to be a space (15-20 min) for them to express their questions and even frustrations. It also is an awesome opportunity for those to have heard God's voice to share that and even bring encouragement. You don't need to teach in this moment. Week 2 will help us better understand how we hear from God.

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

These three passages address those three types of people: (1) Those who don't feel like they've heard from God, (2) Those who hear God but don't fully obey, and (3) Those who hear God and need to be encouraged to step out and follow.

1. In this first section, we want to help people draw the connection between baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are only able to hear God's voice through His Spirit. While there may be questions and uncertainty about when a believer "officially" receives the Holy Spirit, this Scripture passage helps us know that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for sure given through baptism. This week provides a great opportunity to talk about Baptism, what it symbolizes (public profession of faith), and the power of the Holy Spirit we receive upon completing this act of obedience. For those struggling to hear God, this section provides an moment to challenge those in your group who have not yet been baptized.
2. It may come up in your discussion the topic of God asking Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites. The explanation for this was covered in the weekend teaching. Try to steer the conversation back on how Saul choose not to obey God fully and how we often have that same tendency. It can often be easy to see when we are being blatantly disobedient; but when we don't choose to obey God fully, that is still disobedience.

small groups

- a. **Hearing from God doesn't just come through Supernatural encounters but also through Scripture. When we are not following what God commands through His Word, we know that we are not following Him.**
3. **God's Spirit lives and works through us giving us the strength and courage to step out and impact those around us. God has given us spiritual gifts to both encourage one another and also to draw nonbelievers to Him. Use this question and time as an opportunity for people to share how they have obeyed what God was calling them to do or say and how they felt before and after doing so. Encourage your small group to trust God's voice and follow as He leads.**

Leaders, thank you for pastoring and shepherding your group well through these next two weeks as we as a church community commit to learning and growing in our ability to hear God's voice and follow what He says.

-Your Small Group Pastors