

03.19.23

LISTEN THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week two of our Listen series! After reflecting on our need listen through quiet last week, Pastor Chip teaches us how to listen to God through our circumstances. Together, let's continue learning about how we can position our hearts to hear God no matter what we walk through.

DISCUSSION

1. Growing up up, where did your family land on the spectrum of listening through circumstances? Did your family lean toward thinking everything is a message from God, or did they lean toward thinking God had to "write something in the sky" for it to be believable? What kind of impact do you think that may have on you today?
2. Reflect and share a time where you thought (or knew) God was speaking to you. What did you hear or experience? What questions or doubts did you have? How did you end up navigating and learning from that experience?
3. Sometimes life's circumstances are just plain hard. In these times, Pastor Chip teaches us to start with the truth - that God is provident, good, and he IS the Holy Spirit. How can these truths impact how you view your circumstances?
4. Pastor Chip mentions four ways God often speaks through circumstances. Of these, share and describe how you believe God speaks to you most often:
 - Through defining moments
 - Through mundane, every day moments
 - Through seasons of waiting
 - Through loops (a repeating opportunity, person, situation, or thought)
5. As a group, discuss any rhythms you currently have to position your heart to hear God in your circumstances. Then use the application below to help guide you from there!

TAKE ACTION

The best way to listen is to practice. After practicing listening through quiet last week, we get to reflect on our circumstances as we get quiet this week. Remember these practical tips from Pastor Chip:

- Ask God, "Speak to me through circumstances. Help me see." Make this your daily prayer this week. A short, breath prayer when you are driving, cooking, in between meetings, or even putting your kids' shoes on before you run out the door.
- Slow down and be interruptible. If you are hurried, worried, and busy, you won't listen well.
- Set times in your day and week to reflect on how is God speaking. Through the big stuff, the mundane, seasons of waiting, or loops.
- Take 5-10 minutes at night to evaluate your day. Did you miss something? Is God speaking? What is God saying?

Understanding the simple truth that God often speaks through our circumstances can be a game-changer in our spiritual journey. While not every circumstance is going to be a "message from God", learning to listen and reflect will open our eyes and ears to what God is saying. Think of it as food for your soul or therapy for your muscles - the longer you practice, the stronger you will become.