



SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Roots of Our Belief: Hearing From God

September 16th, 2018



Light Bulb:

Have a few group members take one of the following passages and read it out loud:

Psalm 19:1-4, Romans 1:20, Hebrews 1:1, 2 Peter 1:21-22

What stuck out to you as you heard these passages read? Did you learn anything new about God and how He speaks?



Sermon Outline:

Hearing from God

1. God Has Spoken: *“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways...”* (Hebrews 1:1)
 - a. Hear Him speak through **solid teaching** – Ephesians 4:11-12
 - b. Hear Him speak through **personal study** – 2 Timothy 2:15
 - i. A basic method for hearing God through His Word
 1. Read, Pray, Observe, Journal, and Pray
 - a. What does God say? Make sure to read passages in context.
 - b. What does God mean? Remember, it’s not “What does this mean to me?” but rather, “What does the author intend for his original audience?”
 - c. Based on what you have learned is there something specific you need to change? Is there something you have learned that you didn’t previously know?
2. God Speaks Now:
 - a. **Through His Son** - *“... in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”* (Hebrews 1:2)
 - b. **By His Spirit** – 1 Corinthians 2:14, Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 46:1 & 10, James 1:5, Proverbs 3:5-6
 - i. You must have the Spirit of God to understand, truly hear, the word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
 - c. Not a “still small voice” etc. (1 Kings 19:12, Psalm 46:10)
 - i. Rather than asking for a special message, ask for wisdom!
 1. *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who give to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”* (James 1:5)
3. Are You Hearing From God?: *“My sheep hear My voice...”* (John 10:27)
 - a. The bottom line is that God can speak any way he wants, through people, dreams and visions, thoughts, natural phenomena, supernatural phenomena, His Word, these are all in the Bible. But can we expect experiencing all of these things? No!
 - b. “God may reveal Himself and give guidance to His servants any way He pleases. **It is not for us to set limits on Him.** But it remains a question as to whether or not we are entitled to expect “hotline” disclosures on a regular basis. **The correct answer is no.** All the biblical narratives of God’s direct communications with men are **exceptional on their face**, and the biblical model of personal guidance is quite different.” – J.I. Packer



The Question:

You might stumble over a word, a verse, a connection to another part of the Bible, or something the pastor says and this is a good time to talk about these things. With every question you ask, try and answer it yourself before bringing it to the group. The deepest and most lasting learning we do sometimes comes when we challenge ourselves to search for an answer to our own question. Stop, pray, ask, and do your best. Then turn to others for the answer or to share how you've grown.



The Cross:

We should be constantly thinking about Christ when we read our Bibles and in Small Groups we should be Christ focused. Jesus says in Luke 24:44, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." When in a gospel it's easy to see Jesus so change the question to "what did I learn about Jesus from this text or sermon?"



The Application:

The arrow means two things: It points at us indicating a personal application for our lives. It also points forward indicating growth. This is perhaps the most important step and a driving force of the updated Sermon Notes. As we read the Bible and sit under solid biblical teaching our goal is to be transformed into Christ's likeness and become doers of the Word. This happens through applying what we are learning to our daily lives. The pastors at LOC are often very intentional with giving a next step or practical way to apply the weeks sermon to our lives, use one of those or come up with your own. Then identify and commit to something we sense the Spirit is leading us to do in obedience to the text or sermon. Be specific, make it something personal and that can be accomplished ourselves, writing it down in the Note's section, and sharing it with the group. **Let's start holding each other accountable!**



The Conversation:

Let's become outwardly focused in our faith. As we experience transformation we want to be sharing with those people God has placed around us. There is something from every week we can bring to a conversation. Identify a specific person you might connect with in the next week, and think about a time you could bring this particular truth up with them. It can be a believer or not, the important thing is the be sharing with someone outside LOC. Write their name down in the Notes section.

These tips and study techniques have been adapted from Marshal Segal's article "Six Question to Ask When Studying the Bible in a Group". <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-questions-to-ask-when-studying-the-bible-in-a-group>.

