

# Hearing God

## Week 1: Guidelines for Hearing God

January 10, 2021 / Dave Ripper, Lead Pastor

Mark 12:28-35

1. This has been a troubling and trying week for our country. Take a few moments of silence to pause and remember that God is with us. Pray that his peace and presence may give us hope, healing, unity and assurance.
2. What has been your experience with this month's teaching theme, *Hearing God*? In what ways do you best connect with God? In what ways or areas of life do you struggle to hear God? Why is hearing God so desperately needed in our time now?
3. The thesis of Pastor Dave's teaching this week was: "God does not have a speaking problem. We have a hearing problem?" Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
4. Read Mark 12:28-35. What stands out to you about this passage as it relates to hearing God?
5. Jesus' words from Mark 12 ("The Greatest Commandment") are a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Take a few moments to read aloud this passage. What implications does this text have for families?
6. The word "hear" in Hebrew is *shema*. It means to hear, pay attention, listen, be aware. Pastor Dave contended that hearing/*shema*-ing is a prerequisite to agape love. Why is our ability to love God and others so dependent on our capacity to hear and listen?
7. This week, Pastor Dave challenged us to create intentional space to hear God, or open windows to God and others? What is a step or two you might take to create more room for God to speak to you?