



## Connect Discussion Guide

### 4.18.21 Message | Keith Ehresman

#### Key Scriptures:

*And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth... You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet..."*

- Exodus 20:1–17

*And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.*

- Deuteronomy 28:1

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

- Psalm 34:8

*Then Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

- Job 42:1–2

*The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.*

*The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

*The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.*

*The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

*The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"*

- Psalm 29:3–9

*Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

- James 5:11

*But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

- Matthew 22:34–40

**Message Highlights:**

- Many of us equate God's voice with the voice of our parent(s). This can be both good and bad.
- God desires to be in an authoritative relationship with each of us (rules with a relationship).
- When we oversimplify God our Father, we often slip into accusation and complication.
- God meets us in our struggle and simply desires a humble and repentant heart to trust that he knows what he is doing
- If ever there was a need for being God's voice on earth, it is now.
- When God has given us a taste of his own majesty and our own wickedness, then the Christian life becomes a thing very different than simply being "religious."
- When we shift our mindset from seeing God as a domineering parent to seeing ourselves as his beloved child, we experience his love and discover that his voice is worth listening to.

**Conversation Starter:**

- Why is it important to shift our mindset away from equating God's voice with the voice of a parent or other authority figure in our life? How does this mindset shift change the way you hear the Voice of God?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Compare and contrast the advice of Job's 3 friends versus the advice of Elihu. Identify the aspects of good theology that Elihu uses and how the advice was a blessing to Job.
2. Did your understanding of Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good," change or deepen today? Tell your group about the most recent time God gave you a taste of his goodness.
3. What was the new perspective that Keith offered regarding suffering? How was Job different after enduring a season of suffering?
4. If ever there was a need for being God's voice on earth, it is now. The brokenness is widespread and evil is rampant; what does it look like to be an instrument for restoring God's kingdom here on earth? How do we break this huge problem into actionable solution steps?
5. James 5:11 says, "Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast..." Where specifically do you find your stability? What situations take away from your steadfastness?

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, thank you for speaking to us through your Son and through your Holy Spirit. We desire to taste and see your goodness! Yet we recognize our tendency to shut out your voice at times. Help us to hear and trust your voice! Gently lead us into an understanding of ourselves as your beloved children. Show us how we can be a part of restoring your loving rule over all creation. Amen.*