

Lesson 4: Hearing God

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: (Help people discover these points – if the principles are not emerging in group discussion, ask questions to bring these out – do not “lecture” to them.)

- **Hearing God** – God speaks directly to the person being prayed for at their point of need. Spend time silently listening for His voice

1) **Pray.** Open with prayer. Spend time in small group prayer as appropriate during the session.

2) **Review** the Basic Principles and accompanying gestures covered so far and **discuss** how understanding and applying these is going.

Basic Principles

- **Live in your heritage** – Reclaim it if you’ve been robbed. 1 Peter 1:3-9
- **Come to Jesus** – Bring Him your stuck places. Ps 62:5-8
- **3-way prayer** – The facilitator does most of the verbal prayer. The person being prayed for focuses on listening to God and responding. Others intercede quietly. Matt 18:18-20

3) **Review** the previous lesson.

➤ Individually

- Write down or otherwise note your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.

➤ Small Groups: If your large group is more than 7 people you may want to split into small groups.

- Review the previous lesson’s **memory verse(s)**.
- Share with one another your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson, then discuss and **agree on** your group’s top 3 principles.
- **Pray together.** Ask that each person learn and apply Wholeness Prayer principles.

➤ Large group

- Share your group’s **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.
- Write responses (in words or pictures) on a whiteboard or flipchart, combining similar responses.

4) **Discovery Bible Study (DBS): John 10:27-30 (God speaks to His sheep, give time for silent listening)**

Ask 2-3 people to read the verses out loud, from varying translations when possible.

Alternatively, listen to the verses being read aloud on an audio device 2-3 times. Then ask someone to retell the passage, as completely as possible, in their own words. Ask the group to contribute anything missed. Fill in gaps as needed.

Pray as a group and ask God to speak through His word. Spend time listening silently. Then discuss the following questions. Help everyone participate. If you have more than 6-7 people, first split into small groups.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about people who follow Jesus?
- What kinds of ways might God speak to people? (through Scripture, nature, people or miraculous occurrences; by reminding them of something or pointing out its significance; Holy Spirit inspired impressions, thoughts, insights, and creative ideas; by orchestrating

occurrences in their lives, by giving a sense of “release and peace,” through dreams and visions, in an audible voice)

- What might make it easier for people to hear God’s voice? (giving time and space for listening, quieting their hearts, being in a quiet place, asking Him to speak, openness to hearing whatever He wants to say, obedience to what He’s already told them)
- What could hinder people from hearing God’s voice? (not believing God will speak to them, misunderstanding who God is, misunderstanding who they are in Christ, anger, bitterness, fear, doubt, unforgiveness, unconfessed sin, lack of surrender, busy-ness, lack of patience, not knowing how to listen or connect, not obeying something God already said)
- What is the importance of people testing what they hear by God’s word? (People can be deceived; if it doesn’t agree with His word then it’s not from Him and should be rejected.)
- How are you already applying the principles in this passage? How would you like to grow in applying these principles? (Encourage people to consider possible applications, then choose one or two clear, specific and realistic personal applications.)
- What does God want you to do to apply this?
- Who will you tell?
- Who will you share this lesson with?
- What key principles will your group share with the large group?

5) Follow-up Activities.

- **Share** key principles, drawings and motions with the large group. Ask each small group to share one key principle. Write these (in words or pictures) on a large paper or whiteboard. Continue until you have all the main points in the lesson.
- **Gesture:** Decide together on a gesture or hand motion for this lesson. Then ask all participants to stand up and do the gesture together. Then practice together all the gestures in order for the basic principles covered so far in this module.
- **Spend time** listening to God as a group. After a time of silence, share with one another what you hear, as you feel led. Look for Scriptures together to verify each impression that is shared.
- **Clarify** the next meeting time and any pre-work to be completed beforehand.
- **Pre-work** for next lesson:
 - **Memorize:** John 10:27 (And review previous verses.)
 - **Pray:** Read and meditate on 1 Thess 5:16-22.
 - **Share:** Share with others what you are learning.
 - **Practice:** Spend time listening to God. Test what you hear by His word.
 - **Optional resource:** Growing in Hearing God by Freedom for the Captives Ministries.

6) Pray a closing prayer. Commit to pray for one another between training times.

Note: You may also want to incorporate a time of sharing and prayer – for blessings and challenges.