

WEEK 4

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?

OBJECTIVE

God is speaking to us on a regular basis, and when we are aware and position ourselves to listen, it's life changing. This week, group members will reflect on how God is speaking to them and if they are listening.

CHECKLIST

- Pray over each group member by name.
- Send out mid-week text to check in with Small Group members.
- Decide what the Serve Experience will be for Week 9.
- Invite group members to bring any questions from last week's topic.
- Remind group members of upcoming Next Steps opportunities (Baptism, Connect, etc.)
- Select someone to share their story next week.

SMALL GROUP

SOCIAL: 10 MINUTES

Welcome the group and create connections for group members to one another.

ICEBREAKER: 5 MINUTES

"What is your choice of communication: text, phone call, Facetime, or in person?"

STORY: 3 MINUTES

At least a few days in advance, ask one person from the group to share their story of what their life was like before Jesus and when they made the decision to follow Jesus. (Be sure to hold them to a 3 minute limit!)

INTRODUCTION: 5 MINUTES

Remind attendees of the purpose of this group and the importance of their (and your) commitment to it. Celebrate any milestones or next steps of individuals in the group.

Allow participants to share their thoughts on the previous week's devotional and encourage them to ask any questions they had written down regarding last week's topic.

"How did you see God move through you this week through your devotions?"

"What questions did you write down?"

VIDEO: 15 MINUTES

Set up and prepare for this week's video teaching.

"Today's topic will be all about how God speaks to us, but are we ready to listen? Let's lean into this week and learn all about this topic together. Let's keep building."

READ: 2 MINUTES

Open your Bibles together and read through this week's passage. Be sure that everyone is able to find the book, chapter and verses and encourage group members to take turns reading.

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:3-4

DISCUSSION: 30 MINUTES

Lead the group through the reflection questions, encouraging them to even ask their own questions. (This is not the time for the leader to talk, but for participants to engage with each other. Rule of thumb: you talk 30% of the time, they talk 70% of the time.) Be sure that no one or two people dominate the conversation, but you're facilitating and directing the participation of everyone.

QUESTION 1

The Bible is where we should go when we want to hear from God. How often do you find yourself reading God's Word?

QUESTION 2

In addition to going to His word we also hear from God when we pray. What do you know about prayer? How has prayer (yours or someone else's) impacted your life?

QUESTION 3

Share about a time you heard God speak to you. How did He guide you in a decision, a thought or a nudge to do something for someone, etc.?

QUESTION 4

In what ways are you currently waiting for God to speak to you?

PRAYER: 15 MINUTES

Split into groups of two and pray.

Prayer Focus: Spend time with one another and share how you are hoping to hear God speak in your life.

NEXT STEPS: 5 MINUTES

Introduce the materials and encourage members to engage in their weekly devotions for the coming week. Discuss any upcoming events or opportunities for them to take next steps (attending worship experiences, baptism, Rock City Connect, serving beyond our walls).

- Commit this week to spending each day reading the Bible, praying and sitting in quiet. Remember that time with God is never wasted, even if you don't hear from Him. He is working!