



When God Speaks

Monthly Focus

Prayer – A Two-Way Conversation

Week 1

Knowledge (Option 2)

Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 10:3–5
 1 Corinthians 9:26–27
 Proverbs 16:9
 Proverbs 3:5–6

James 4:7
 Ephesians 6:10–18
 John 10:27
 Psalm 69: 13
 Exodus 33:11

Study Overview

Go over the Scriptures listed and ask the teens to share what they observed.

Meeting Needs: A list for each student of the scripture references listed below. Paper and pen to write down what stood out in the scripture.

It's About Life!

“God’s Word brings life! God’s Word never leaves someone or something the same. However, many Christians have lost the sense of awe at receiving a word from God. God’s Word is far too important for us not to take seriously. There is too much at stake for us to be careless with a word from God. The Bible is full of examples of God speaking to people. We should encourage each other to share what we are hearing from God.”

Blackaby, Henry & Richard; *When God Speaks*, pg. 11.
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God speaks at many different times in many different ways. We need to remain open.

A Testimony

“I do two things to be open to anything God wants to say to me: First, I make myself available to many opportunities for God to communicate with me. For example, although God uses my quiet times with Him to speak to me, He can and will also use the preaching of His Word at my church, a Bible study or a small group prayer time.

Second, I cultivate my relationship with Christ. The more I know Him, the easier it is for me to recognize His voice.

When God speaks to His people. God is on a mission to redeem a lost world. God expects people to adjust their lives to Him so that He can work through them to bring others to Himself.

Work to know God’s voice so intimately that you immediately recognize the other voices that are not God. He will never lead you in a way that contradicts His Word. God is consistent in the way He leads.”

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How Has God Spoken?

- Angels – Luke 1:26
- Dreams – Matthew 2:12 – 13
- Symbolic actions – Jeremiah 18:1 – 10
- Still small voice – 1 Kings 19:12
- Miraculous signs – Exodus 8:20 – 25
- Prayer – Acts 22:17 – 18
- Fire – 1 Kings 18:37 – 39
- Writing on wall – Daniel 5:5
- Visions – Genesis 15:1
- Prophets – Acts 21:10 – 11
- Preaching – Jonah 3:4
- Burning Bush – Exodus 3:2
- Donkey – Numbers 22:28
- Trumpet – Exodus 19:16, 19
- Fleece – Judges 6:35 – 37
- Casting lots – Acts 1:23 – 26

Leader’s Note: You don’t have to look up all of the verses above to read through with your teens. Before the lesson read through the list and choose which ones you would like to emphasize. Have the teens look up the scripture and tell you how God has spoken.



The Competition

Where to Start

Three things compete for our attention: (have students tell you what they are before you give them the answers):

- Our own voice (the flesh – unhealthy desires, cravings and wants)
- The voice of the devil (and the world through advertising, music and “stuff”)
- God’s Spirit

By the process of taking every thought captive, you can ask God to silence your thoughts and the devil’s distractions in order to clear your mind to hear God. This will take some practice, but don’t make it complicated or weird. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we have been given power to overcome the flesh and the devil (see 2 Peter 1:3).

It’s actually more difficult NOT to hear God! It’s just that we are so used to not hearing Him, it seems hard. God promises to guide us when we are humble and want to obey.

How can we know if it’s God speaking to us?

The scriptures provide ways to discern or test things so we can know they are from God.

For Starter:

1. **Submit to God’s Lordship.** Ask Him to silence your thoughts, desires, and opinions (2 Corinthians 10:5; Proverbs 3: 5 – 6).
2. **Resist the devil** by asking Jesus to silence the enemy’s voice and distractions in your mind (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10 – 18).
3. **Expect an answer from God.** Ask the Father to help you hear Him and He will (John 10:27; Psalm 69:13; Exodus 33:11).

(Content above is from: *Is that Really You God?* By Loren Cunningham and *Surprised by the Voice of God* by Jack Deere)

Does it exalt Christ?

(John 14:26; 16:13 – 14) It’s got to be all about Christ, not you! He must be at the center of the leading.

Is it Scriptural?

(Proverbs 30: 5 – 6; 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 17)
It has to line up with what God reveals to us in His Word. If not, it’s not from God.

Do other Christians confirm it?

(Proverbs 15:22; 1 Corinthians 14:29)
It’s about “we” not “me”. The body of Christ is important! Learn to trust other believers who are mature in their faith. Ask them to pray with you.

Does it produce good fruit?

(Deuteronomy 18:21 – 22; John 15:1 – 16)
The fruit of the Spirit is all about Godly stuff, nothing else! If what you’re hearing weighs you down or make you feel guilty, it’s probably not from the Lord. However, God will convict us at times. The different between guilt and conviction is that conviction comes with hope and forgiveness. Guilt comes with a dead end and mocking. Test it!

Does God bring it to pass?

(Isaiah 55:10 – 11)
God means what He says and says what He means. If God tells you something or shows you something, He will make it happen.



At times, God will show you something amazing. Be careful not to run ahead of Him or read into what He says. We're very good at running ahead of God. Take each leading step at a time, being careful to focus on Christ and nothing else. If He tells you to take one step to the right, take one step to the right, not two. Always test it! You can use these tests in everyday life. In fact, we are instructed to do so (1John 4:1). Remember, just because you don't feel God's presence doesn't mean He's not there.

Refine – Are there aspects of your lifestyle that keep you from having a prayerful life? If so, choose one to conscientiously and purposefully get rid of this week. Be specific and commit to God your action. Please share your choice with your mentor or another person who will ask you how you're doing with that choice.

Pursue – Below are a few suggestions for how a teen can practice listening prayer this week:

- 1 – Spend 5 minutes a day praying Scripture out loud as we practiced before.
- 2 – Remember to listen for God and pray what comes to mind.
- 3 – Ask the Lord if there is a Scripture reference He would like you to read. After reading the Scripture, ask the Lord what He wants you to learn from that passage. Then write it down.
- 4 – Ask the Lord to tell you something that He likes about you. Ask the Lord to reveal to you something that you have done that pleased Him.

Remember to test what you hear from the Lord with the steps learned in the “**How can we know if it's God speaking to us**” section.

End your time in prayer with the students. Make sure you build in a time for the teens to practice what they learned today. Give them a few guiding questions and allow them some time to hear from God.