



Week Two: I Hear A Voice

What if you heard from God so clearly that you knew for sure it was his voice? What if the application was direct, practical and personal? Seriously? How would you respond? This week, we'll explore a proven method every person can use to get that kind of information and we'll examine exactly how to apply that to your life.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Last week, Carey said in the message that the primary way God speaks to people today is through the Bible. Carey said that hearing voices and looking for signs, while being a natural way for people to want to hear from God, are inherently unreliable and subjective. A week into this series, how is that assertion sitting with you? Do you find it comforting, assuring, or disappointing?
- 2) We often want God to speak to us in specific circumstances (can I take this job...should I marry her?), but the Bible instead tends to speak in principles. In what way - if any - have principles you've learned along the way (from the Bible or from other sources) helped you make decisions in life? If you can, give specific examples.
- 3) The phrase "God's will" is not mentioned often in the Bible, but we find it in *1 Thessalonians 5:18*. What does that verse say about God's will?
- 4) How could that single principle guide you in discovering God's will for your life? Take some time to discuss how this principle might apply to a variety of situations you are currently facing.
- 5) Now read through *Romans 12: 1-5*. While there are several topics in those verses alone, are there any that speak into a circumstance you are facing in your life right now? How might that topic or principle help you address the circumstance you are facing?
- 6) If you were struggling through a situation at work, how might *verses 3-5* help you? How might those verses help you if there was tension in your home?
- 7) Read through *Romans 12: 9-21*. There is a lot of advice in those verses. Take a few minutes to write down some of the principles those verses teach.
- 8) Look at the list of principles you have drafted, and now take some time in your group to go through life situations group members are facing where one or more of these principles might help you think/pray through an issue.
- 9) What do you think the differences are between simply "reading a passage" and reading a passage with a view to applying it in your life?
- 10) Read through *Romans 12: 9-10*. How could applying this single verse make a difference in your marriage next week or in your relationship with your children or at work? Run through each situation and think about specific people and how your application of that verse might impact that relationship.
- 11) Again, just thinking about *Romans 12*, what might happen to who you are as a person - your character - if you consistently applied these verses to your life? How might it reshape your relationship with others and your relationship with God?
- 12) What might happen if you began to read all the bible passages you read with a view toward application? How much more "clearly" might you understand God's will for your life?

Taking It Home

If you are not in the habit of reading the Bible daily, think about how you can make time in your schedule this week to read at least one chapter of the Bible every day. Then as you read that chapter, ask God to help you find one verse in that chapter that you can directly apply to your life. If you find that overwhelming, for the first week, just read *Romans 12* each day and ask God to help you find a new insight to apply each day. At the end of the week, talk to someone (maybe in your group) about how this process helped you (or didn't help you) better discover God's will for your life.

Changing Your Mind

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:9-10