

Prayer Ministry

Small Group Study Guide

Lesson 1. Hearing God Exercise

This first exercise is for each individual to ask God a question and listen for an answer. Use the table below to record your experience. You will be invited to share the results, but not compelled to do so. Allow ten minutes for this exercise.

Take a few moments to quiet your soul and wait on the Lord. When you are ready, ask Him a question. It can be a question you have had on your mind for a long time, or it may be a simple one that comes to you as you prepare. Write down the question in the first box of the following table, and then present it to the Lord as a silent prayer.

Pay attention to what changes as you pray and shortly after you have finished asking. Jot down your impressions in the middle box, remembering that they may be auditory, visual, kinesthetic, or inspiration.

Listen to the Holy Spirit as He gives testimony to your spirit about the meaning of those impressions. Make notes to yourself in the third box regarding the answer you heard from God.

Question:
Impressions:
Meaning:

Allow anyone to share with the group the question asked and the meaning of the answer. This is a time of testimony about the faithfulness of God to answer when we call out to Him.

Take a few minutes to discuss the exercise as a group. Use the following questions, or come up with your own:

What were you feeling as you began the exercise?

What experience have you had with this kind of prayer in the past?

How difficult was it to put your request into words?

What happened when you presented the question to God?

How did you address distracting thoughts, if any?

What are some ways to overcome fear and misconceptions about listening prayer?

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Now you are ready to repeat this exercise. You may ask the same question as before, or you may have a new question. Use the following table in the same way as you did before.

Question:
Impressions:
Meaning:

What happened in the second exercise?

Who would like to share their results?

Sharing: Hearing God

Answer these questions together in discussion format:

- Can an unsaved person hear from God?
- Share with your small group the way you most often hear from God.
- What do you think is the primary barrier for most people regarding hearing from God?
- What was your most surprising revelation?
- What are some things you can do when you don't seem to get an answer?
- How can you encourage someone that does not expect to hear from God?
- How should you respond to the person who thinks the answer came from his own mind?

Caring: Hearing God

Spend some time in prayer for those that have a need, either as a group or in clusters. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and listen carefully to His voice.