

prayer

The Week of July 4, 2021 Prayer: How to Listen Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am in prayer:** (Philippians 4:6) I regularly pray to God to better know Him and His direction for my life.
- **About the Bible:** (2 Timothy 3:16-17) I believe the Bible is God's Word. It is true and authoritative and I am committed to living according to its principles and commands.
- **I study God's Word:** (2 Timothy 2:15) I consistently study the Bible to know God, the truth and find direction for my daily life.



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Intro Questions

- When was the last time you were caught not paying attention or not really listening? What were the consequences?
- What are some tricks you use help you listen better?
- Share a time when you felt God was speaking to you.
- Has there ever been a time in your life when God was speaking to you but you ignored Him and went your own way?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you listened and obeyed God's voice? What was the result?



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Pastor David laid out two things we need to hear from God:

1. We need to be ready and willing.
2. We need to be looking for God in the right places.

How to be Ready and Willing

Read Genesis 3:8 (CSB)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- What does this verse show us was the intended relationship between God and man?

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Read John 1:16 (CSB)

Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side — he has revealed him.

- Who is our bridge to God?
- How is Jesus essential to the restoration of our relationship with God?

Read John 17:3 (CSB)

“This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent — Jesus Christ.”

- How does Jesus define eternal life?



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- How do we know God?
- What are some distractions that keep you from knowing God?
- How does knowing someone improve your ability to identify their voice?

Read John 10:3-5 (CSB)

“The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don’t know the voice of strangers.”

- How do you get to know someone’s voice?
- How do you get to know God’s voice?



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Read Isaiah 6:1-8 (CSB)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.

The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke. Then I said:

Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips,



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*and because my eyes have seen the King,
the Lord of Armies.*

*Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and
in his hand was a glowing coal that he
had taken from the altar with tongs. He
touched my mouth with it and said:*

*Now that this has touched your lips, your
iniquity is removed and your sin is atoned
for.*

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord
asking:*

*Who will I send? Who will go for
us?*

I said:

Here I am. Send me.



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- Isaiah was a prophet (someone called by God to speak for Him). This passage tells of the vision he had when God called him. What was Isaiah's immediate reaction to being in the presence of God?
- How did the angels respond to this?
- What does this passage tell us is needed to be ready to respond to God's call in our lives?

The Right Places to Look for God

The Bible

Read Hebrews 4:12 (CSB)

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



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- How does the Bible give us a clearer picture of who we truly are?
- How is the Bible a love letter from God to help us not only know ourselves better, but to know Him better also?

Read James 1:22-25 (CSB)

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does.



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- What's the difference between good intentions and actual application?
- How does the desire to know God motivate us to live out His Word?

Circumstances

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 (CSB)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

- What action do you we need to take in order for God to make our paths straight?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CSB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the



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man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- What work does scripture in our lives?

Read Proverbs 16:2-3 (CSB)

All a person's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs motives. Commit your activities to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

- How do you commit your activities to Lord?
- How can you use the Bible to keep yourself accountable?

The Church

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7 (CSB)

A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:



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Read Ephesians 4:13 (CSB)

...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

- Pastor David referred to the Christian faith as being a team sport. How does being part of a body of believers help us to hear from God?
- How is our maturing as a believer, growing in our knowledge of God, dependent on being in healthy relationships with other believers?

