

Listen to the TXT

Listen to me, all you who are serious about right living and committed to seeking GOD. Isaiah 51:1 The Message

DISCUSSION: Have you ever been in a conversation with someone and you felt like they weren't really listening to what you were saying? What happened?

1. I need to learn to Listen to God in the text

The Bible is the only truly relational book.

DISCUSSION: How does God speak to you through the Bible? If not, why do you think He doesn't? Do you feel like you are relating with Him?

DISCUSSION: How much time per week do you spend reading and studying the Bible? What can you do to increase the time and intensity?

How do I listen?

- a. Make a commitment to listen to what the text says not what you want it to say

*Whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the LORD. Jeremiah 42:6
ESV*

DISCUSSION: Do you ever read the Bible and try to fit the text to support what you already believe?

DISCUSSION: Can you honestly agree and accept the above verse? Where do you struggle?

- b. Find a place where I can easily concentrate

Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you. Psalm 78:1 The Message

DISCUSSION: What place and time would work in order to allow you to concentrate best?

c. Ask God to speak to you through the text

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. Luke 11:9 NLT

DISCUSSION: How do you know when you've heard God's voice? In what ways has He spoken to you in the past?

d. Dedicate time to think and process

Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 ESV

DISCUSSION: How often do you take time to really think about and process through a Biblical text? What happens when you make that spiritual discipline a regular practice?

DISCUSSION: When was the last time you simply were still and free of all external distractions in order to simply BE with God? What does that time alone with God typically feel like for you?

2. I need to learn to listen to God through others about the text

After the usual readings from the books of Moses and the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it. So Paul stood, lifted his hand to quiet them, and started speaking. Men of Israel, he said, and you God-fearing Gentiles, listen to me. Acts 13:15-16 NLT

DISCUSSION: What "others" in your life do you listen to regarding the Bible? Who should you spend more time listening to?

Who do I listen to?

a. Not everyone

b. Pastors

*It is better to **listen** to the rebuke of a wise man than for one to **listen** to the song of fools. Ecclesiastes 7:5 NASB*

c. Small group

d. Scholars

e. Non-believers

f. Your enemies

*Be careful to **listen** to all these words which I command you, so that it may be well with you and your sons after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 12:28*

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 5-7 minutes in order to be alone with God and ask Him to what degree do you allow His word to speak into your life. Also ask Him how that compares to the other voices that you allow to speak into your life.

Then take some time to talk with your small group about what you discovered during your prayer project. Do you need to give yourself more to listening to God's word. How can they hold you accountable?

Maybe you are doing really well. Will you share with your group how you are successfully connecting with God through His word?