

Session 1 – Introduction, God speaks

Session notes

God has always wanted to work relationally

- God is trinity: a united, relational unity
- Impossible to fully describe, but it does tell us some key things:
 - God values relationship highly
 - God values communication highly
 - Therefore, God wants relationship with us (“created in his image” – Genesis 1.27), and for that relationship to include 2 way communication – us to him, him to us
- God is good and he wants the best for us, and so he wants us to benefit from his understanding of all things
 - His revelation and understanding of all time
 - His wisdom

God has always spoken

- Genesis 3:
 - End of day, in the garden of Eden, relationship, peace, restoration, vision, heart ...
 - Note how after the fall, Adam and Even wish to avoid relationship but God still wants it. He still comes towards them with openness.
- Genesis 5:21-23 Enoch (walks with God)
- Genesis 12.1ff Abraham (hears God and obeys (delay?))
- Samuel (audible voice, 1 Samuel 3)
- The prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc etc)
- Jesus (John 8:38.)
- Macedonian man (Acts 16)
- Agabus (Acts 11.28)

The bible makes it clear that he wants to speak to and through every believer now, although he will speak and communicate with each of us in a way that is matched to how he made us. He is willing to use “your language” (give example – me rowing pictures)

Exercise

In this course we will be doing plenty of practical exercise, to help us grow in understanding and practice! Today, we’re going to start with thinking about our experience so far. This week, two parts:

First: In groups of 4 or 5 people (perhaps 3, but not less), talk about your experiences of hearing God. How have you heard God and when? What did he say? How did you know it was God? Have an open discussion. Please be honest! IF it’s totally new to you, that’s great. If it’s common, that’s also cool – let’s share and learn from each other. Pick up on the idea that there are lots of ways, and it’s often different for different individuals. There are lots of ways of hearing God (a bit from the bible jumps out at you; you hear an audible voice, A thought comes into your mind just after you’ve asked God for wisdom, a picture which God then explains, a strong sense about something,)

Then, please take time to pray for each other that over the coming weeks of the course, we will each discover and grow in hearing and following God.

Final encouragement/challenge (not on video, session leader to give)

Over the next week, when you are in a meeting (church, work, whatever), look around and see what God highlights to you and what he wants to share through it. Look for an opportunity to share what he says appropriately.

Notes to help the session run well

Think about who to put in discussion groups so that each group has at least one person who has an active relationship with God and you know hears God, and can help explain the heart of hearing God. They don't need to be a prophet, or especially prophetic, but able to help with the revelation that God wants to speak to each of us, personally.