



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Learning to Listen to God's Voice, part 2

GETTING STARTED

How open are you to new ideas? How have you learned to discern what a good idea is from a bad one?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Read both Proverbs 14:12 and Jeremiah 17:9 together. How do these "warnings" inform how we are to be discerning about God's voice? How we are to evaluate what we hear or what others say about God?

Of the three points Dave mentioned about better discerning God's voice

(Is it consistent with Scripture, Is it consistent with how God made you, and Is it consistent with cross-shaped love)

- Which area do I need to grow in, or train myself better
- How would each help you better discern if God is speaking, or evaluate what others are saying?
- What would I need to change or do differently to begin to act on God's leadings through the Spirit?

From Acts 17, Dave said we can learn to apply listening and discerning God's voice in 3 ways: (Eagerly receive what God may be saying, Evaluate its truthfulness by Examining Scripture, and evaluate it in a community of believers)

- How can you open yourself up (eagerly receive what God may be saying)?
- How have you grown cynical in "hearing from God? Why?
- What can you do to become more discerning?
- How can you more bravely act on what God may be saying?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Acts 17:10-15]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

When did Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica? (17:10)

Why did Paul and Silas leave at night? (17:10)

What town did the missionaries visit? (17:10)

*On arriving in Berea, where did Paul and Silas go? (17:10)

How were the Bereans different from the Thessalonians? (17:11)

How did the Bereans interact with Paul's message? (17:11)

How did the people respond to the gospel? (17:12)
Who responded to the gospel? (17:12)
What did the Jewish unbelievers from Thessalonica do? (17:13)
Why did Paul leave Berea? (17:14)
Why did Silas and Timothy remain in Berea? (17:14)
Who went with Paul to Athens? (17:15)
What instructions did Paul leave for Silas and Timothy? (17:15)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

If your church offered daily Bible studies, why might people go or not go to them?
What does it mean to welcome the message of Christ?
Why is it important to think about what we are taught?
How should all Christians interact with what they are taught about the Bible?
When might a Christian viewpoint stir up controversy?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?
What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?
How can we pray for each other?