

# DEVOTED

## **Study Week Three**

Listening

*Leaders guide for "Devoted" group facilitators.*

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Last week's emphasis was WAITING. This week we will move into the next logical posture... LISTENING. Ask, "OKAY, I am waiting, but for what?" Let the group members share their responses. The hope is that the responses will be, in one form or another, "Waiting to HEAR from Jesus".

Share with the group at the outset that there will be a practical listening/sharing exercise to close the session that all will do; it may take some out of their comfort zone, but ask them to be open to the experience; allow at least 30 minutes for the exercise.

As facilitator, we would recommend a resource to you that will take you much deeper into the discipline of hearing from Jesus. It is called *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond* by Bill Hybels. The group might even consider it for a later group study. Again, to you as facilitator, these weekly discussion guides are limited to one page; we assume it is understood that prayer is foundational to the life of the group. It is further assumed that each session includes sharing time, what is going on in each other's lives. Please allot time for prayer at the beginning and close and at any other time the Spirit prompts. A key to a successful group is the degree that it prays for and with one another.

**Breaking the Ice:**

Play this week's primer video. Begin by reading Psalm 37:4 in the NIV, KJV, or NKJV and ask.

- *What does being still look like? In other words, what would it mean for each member to, sorry for the bluntness, shut up, listen, and hear from God?*
- *In this verse, and according to it, why is the Spirit prompting us to BE STILL? (We will see God OVER all things) The NASB translates this verse as CEASE STRIVING rather than BE STILL.*
- *In light of that translation ask the group, does it shed a different perspective on listening and hearing from God?*
- *Ask, do you find it difficult to be still/cease striving and listen? If yes, why?*  
*Unpacking this week's message:*  
*This week's sermon focused in on the apostle Peter and chronicled examples of instances where the Spirit exercised great patience with Peter until he "got it". Have the group think back to the message, encourage them to refer to their sermon notes if they took them. Ask how the Spirit spoke to them as these examples from Peter's life were shared.*
- *Ask, how are they like Peter in that the Spirit has been patient with them until they "got it"?*
- *What were some reasons why, if that was the case, they didn't "get it" right away.*
- *Assuming that other's experiences were similar to Peter's how were they encouraged by the Spirit's patience. (He doesn't give up on us, He is true and faithful even when we are not).*

### **Bringing the session to a close:**

Please ensure that at least 30 minutes remain when the sermon review is over. Even if you have to cut off the discussion prematurely, please gracefully to so. The following will take at least 30 minutes.

Read (with minimal commentary) I Samuel 3:1-14 to establish the fact that God speaks to His people. Read Hebrews 13:8 as a reminder that the same Jesus that spoke to Samuel is the same Jesus that speaks to us. Now quickly read 1 Kings 19:11-13 reinforce that God generally speaks in His still small voice.

Please make the space you meet in as quiet as possible. Ask each person to go off individually, with no helps or agenda and get alone, silent for 15 minutes. After the 15 minutes call the group back together and each share their experience.

- *How did you feel during the 15 minutes?*
- *Did you sense God speaking to you?*
- *Were you distracted?*

Re-ask the question... what will have to happen for each to hear from God? Pray for each other to experience HEARING the voice of Jesus.

A suggestion to consider: Before the members share their responses to “what will have to happen for each to hear from God” ask the person to the right of the person sharing to take note of her/his response. After each has shared, close with each person praying out loud and specifically for the person on their right.

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*GIVE IN TO THE LOVE  
OF YOUR LIFE.*