



Position to Listen | Shawn Johnson | 10.21.17

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Think about your life as a kid, what was one time you got in big trouble for not listening?

SHARE

There are seasons in the rhythm of Red Rocks Church when it seems timely and appropriate to break from a teaching series to allow our teachers the freedom to talk about messages that have been weighing on their hearts for our church family. Over the next few weeks our pastors will be speaking on some really important topics from both the old and new testaments.

This week, Shawn kicked off with a message about listening. It's not quite the thing we all want to hear about, because many of us prefer talking. More often than not, we find ourselves venting, complaining, or yelling into the electronic void of Facebook, but listening—listening is a very different discipline to learn. Yet when it comes to our walk with God, it is one of the first and most important things we need to learn.

In the old testament, we read about a young boy named Samuel, who has to learn how to put himself in a position to hear from God.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21

In a time when the word of the Lord was rare, a young boy named Samuel began to hear God speaking to him. Eli, whose eyes were failing him, was an expert at listening. He taught Samuel who to listen to and how to respond to the voice of God. As difficult as it was, Samuel did not hide anything that God spoke to him. God was with Samuel and because he

learned to listen to the voice of God, he became a spiritual giant. Every word Samuel spoke hit its target.

Have you had a time where it seemed God was silent or it seemed rare to feel God was actually speaking to you?

Was there a time when someone helped you discern when and what God was speaking to you or can you name a time when God used someone else to point you in the direction you should go?

When God speaks to you through his word, worship, or during prayer, do you have a way you can remember what you hear? (i.e. journal, diary, notebook etc.)

G R O W

Read 1 Samuel 7:1-17

God ordained Samuel as the authoritative leader of Israel for a season. He was a judge and a prophet empowered by God. Throughout his life, when the people of Israel listened and followed the word of the Lord, the nation would experience blessing and protection. When the people rebelled and did their own thing, however, God would allow attacks, conflict, loss and hardship in order to bring the hearts of the people back to Him. Samuel was used as an instrument to speak to the people of God's heart for them.

Samuel had to repeatedly warn and encourage the people to get rid of false idols that took the place of God in their lives. What would you say are the idols in our culture today and how are you working on ridding your life of those?

After the people cried out and Samuel sought the Lord, how did God intervene in verse 10?

Samuel's prayer life teaches us that God really hears and intervenes in our lives. Why is this so important to understand?

M O V E

Samuel made spending time with God the most important priority of his life. And because he spent regular time with God, he was continually in a ‘position’ to hear from God. It takes discipline and dedication to make a point every day to spend time with God. Some days, we seem to hear clearly what God is saying to us while other days, his voice seems impossible to discern. But make no mistake, God desires to speak to us and lead us daily—whether we feel it or not.

Rather than focusing on the results of your time with God, start focusing on putting yourself in a ‘position’ to hear from God. Like Samuel went to a specific place to listen, we also should pick a specific place or time to listen.

How might focusing on being in a ‘position’ to hear from God help you as you learn to listen to his voice?

Currently, do you have a specific place or time you spend with God? Take some time sharing ideas of ways to spend time listening to Jesus.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women’s groups to share more freely. Another idea is to have everyone write down their prayer request on a post it note and give it to the Life Group Leader. He or she can send an email to the group with the specific requests so the group can be praying for each other throughout the week.

T O G O

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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