



God Still Speaks | Andrew Matrone | 7.25.21

Weekly Study

START

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

What is your favorite strange food combination?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Andrew reminded us that God Still Speaks! In his sermon, he taught us how to hear the voice of God. But before we dive into the content, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how are you currently feeling? Why did you choose that number?

What was the most challenging part of your week? What was the highlight of your week?

What is the most inspiring conversation, movie, or quote you've had or heard this summer?

GROW

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10

What stuck out to you from this passage?

Have you ever had a moment where you thought you heard the voice of God? If so, tell the Group about the experience.

Have you ever had a significant decision you needed to make? How did you go about making that decision? Oftentimes we weigh out our options, make lists of the pros and cons, and ask everyone for advice. All of those things are an important part of the process, but when is the last time you created space in your life for God to speak into a decision?

The passage you just read is a powerful story about God speaking to Samuel. At first, Samuel didn't know what is going on but look at the advice he receives. "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place" (1 Samuel 3:9).

God can speak to you anytime, anywhere. But there is something about when we position ourselves in a place with the intent to hear from him. As Andrew reminded us this week, there are four main ways to hear the voice of God today:

1. *Prayer*
2. *Fasting*
3. *Worship*
4. *The Word of God*

Which of those four is your favorite for connecting with God? What is one practical way you can make space in your life to keep practicing it?

Which of those four is the most difficult for you? Why do you think that is? What is one practical step you can take this week to get better at it?

MOVE

Read John 15:1-5

What do you think Jesus means when he calls himself the true vine? Why do you think he uses that language?

How would you explain this passage to someone who has never read the Bible?

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus brought his disciples together to encourage them. The passage you just read is a part of that conversation. All too often, we try to be like Jesus without the help of Jesus. But that doesn't work. That would be like trying to get in shape without exercising.

If we want to hear the voice of God, we have to stay close to the source.

That's why Jesus invites us to "Remain in me" (John 15:4). The more time we spend reading about Jesus and praying, the easier it gets to hear the voice of God.

We could spend the next several weeks talking about the importance of prayer, fasting, worship, and Scripture, but for this week, let's just focus on the Bible.

As Christians, we believe the Bible is the inspired Book of God. It is God's way of connecting, communicating, inspiring, challenging, and encouraging us.

Scripture is the most tangible way to hear the voice of God. As Paul reminded Timothy, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Word of God guides, defends, leads, empowers, and transforms! That's why the writer of Hebrews says, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

What is your relationship with the Bible? Why?

What would it look like to spend five minutes reading your Bible every day this week?

What about your life do you think would change if you did that?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

- 1 Kings 19:12