

## Listening for God Discussion Guide

### Chapter 1: Words to Live By

Do you have a specific time set aside to read the Bible? If so, what time slot seems to work best for you? If not, how can you rearrange your schedule to make it fit?

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture and asked the Lord to stop you when he wanted you to focus on a specific verse? If so, what were your results of reading the Bible until God spoke to you?

The author spoke about the time her father-in-law called with a verse that the Lord had put on his heart. Talk about a time you were prompted to share a verse from your daily reading with someone, or when someone else shared a timely verse with you.

Has God ever used his Word to bring healing to your life? (Healing from such things as bitterness, discouragement, anger or worry, etc.) Can you share about that experience?

### Chapter 2: God in the Ordinary

What do you think is the difference between reading the Bible for *transformation* rather than just for *information*?

Have you sought to pray certain scriptures for various people? What are the advantages of doing this?

Can you identify a time when you applied the verses from 2 Timothy 3:16-17? How did the Lord use those verses to teach, rebuke, correct or train you in righteousness?

If you are a parent, have you found the Word of God to be helpful in certain parenting situations? Can you share that with the group? If you are single, how has the Word of God given you specific help in situations that you face?

### Chapter 3: Finding God in His Word

What is something that you worry about? What might God want to say to you about that worry? Seek to memorize Philippians 4:6-8.

If you aren't already in the daily habit of reading the Bible, decide on a place, a time, and then determine to do it daily. Have someone hold you accountable. What do you think about the challenge to, "Read the Bible everyday, until the day you die?"

Do you journal? If you do, are you transparent enough to share something from your journal with the group? If you do not currently journal, what would it take for you to get started?

Would you call yourself a "Person of the Book?" What would it take for you to become one?

#### **Chapter 4: “Lord, Teach Me to Pray”**

Many Christians desire to pray but sometimes have a hard time actually doing it. The author relates how the verse, “Could you not tarry with me one hour” deeply affected her prayer life. What has moved you to prayer? Have you *caught* the Spirit of prayer or are you satisfied to just be *taught* about prayer?

Even though the Lord knows what we are going to pray for before we ask, what are some additional reasons God may desire us to pray? (See list on page 43.)

Do you have a time set aside each day for prayer? Have you personally grasped the fact that Jesus *wants* you to join him in prayer? How did you rate on the “Prayer Test” on page 195?

Early prayer warriors (page 48) did not pray because they were bound to legalistic rules. Yet, they knew they *had* to pray! They had to pray because they were drawn to the Father and knew they needed to press their needs to him. Their lives depended on him. They also *wanted* to pray because they experienced great joy and peace as they prayed. Is your prayer time motivated out of duty or love? If is motivated out of duty, how might you change this?

#### **Chapter 5: Adventures in Listening Prayer**

Discuss the 5 D’s of prayer: Desire, Decision, Discipline, Delight and Daily. Where are you in this journey?

Are you genuinely able to say to someone, “I am praying for you daily?” Do you know of anyone who is praying for *you* daily? If not, perhaps your small group could commit to praying daily for one another during the next week. Also, consider the many people who have never been prayed for. Take some time in your group to pray for them.

Discuss the fact that we have the privilege of coming boldly to the “throne of Grace.” Do you take advantage of the “open-door” invitation we have with the King of Kings?

What imagery comes to your mind when you read Hebrews 7:25?

#### **Chapter 6: Finding God in Prayer**

Would you consider yourself as one of God’s best friends—in other words—one who has made God *their* best friend? Also, reflect on this statement: God has many servants, but few friends.

Which one of these prayer traps hinders you the most and why?

“Prayer doesn’t make that much of a difference.”

“I’m too busy.”

“God hasn’t answered, so I might as well quit praying.”

“I just forget to pray about things.”

“Why pray when complaining feels so good?”  
“My sin isn’t that big of a deal.”  
“I want God to do things my way.”

Describe to others what your time with the Lord looks like.

No matter who you are, most of us could use prayer partners to back us up in prayer. Have you ever thought about forming a prayer team to help you pray over needs in your life? If you do not have anyone to pray with, ask the Lord to send you prayer partners.

### **Chapter 7: Bringing Prayer out of the Closet**

What does it mean (for you) to pray unceasingly? Do you believe it is possible to “*Live life prayerfully?*” What would it take to do so?

What are some specific things you could do to increase your awareness of the presence of God during your day?

Some people can’t figure out how to fit their quiet time in with their “other” life. Do you struggle with this too? Remember there aren’t two lives—the quiet time and the work world. What suggestions can you give to help integrate these two?

Do you practice 1 Timothy 2:2? How important is it to pray for those in authority over you?

### **Chapter 8: When Praying Isn’t Easy**

Can you relate how you felt during a “dark” time in your walk with the Lord? How long did this season last? (It’s helpful to remember that all believers go through these times.)

Look up the scripture references about God’s love on page 92. Which verse means the most to you at this time in your life and why?

What is the difference between waiting **for** God and waiting **on** God to do something that you have requested of him?

Share about a time you fasted and prayed. What did God reveal to you during that time? (You may, like the author, need an accountability partner to help you with the fasting discipline.)

### **Chapter 9: Capturing the Spirit of Prayer**

The author shares how she came to a point in her life where she felt God wanted to teach her about prayer. What do you sense God is trying to teach you in your life right now?

Have you ever wanted to “protect God’s reputation” (as the author did) when you prayed with someone about a matter? Why do you think we do this?

What does the verse, “Pray about everything” suggest to you?

Are you absolutely convinced that God cares about the smallest and the largest details in your life? Can you share a time when God answered either a small request or what seemed like an impossible request? (By the way, do you think any of our requests are “large” to God?)

### **Chapter 10: Stopping to Listen**

When was the last time you sensed the Holy Spirit prompting you to do something for someone? What was it? Did you do it?

Do you believe that God is in control of all things or that certain events are “just coincidences?” If you said that God is in control of all things, why is it easy to live like he is not in control?

Can you share a specific time when you felt led by the Holy Spirit to do something for someone? What was the outcome?

Do you know of something that the Lord has specifically asked you to do but you haven’t done it yet? What is holding you back? Is it fear? Lack of confidence? Plain old disobedience? Something else?

### **Chapter 11: Does God Speak to His Children?**

Has anyone ever come to you and said, “God told me to tell you....”? What happened?

Check out these verses: Psalm 25:14; John 8:47, Amos 4:13(b); John 10:27; and Luke 10:39. What do these verses all have in common?

Do you give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to share what is on his heart after you pray? Or do you rush out the door of your prayer closet and never wait for his “diagnosis”?

During days of discouragement have you intentionally taken time to read the Word, pray and listen? Share about a time that you did this. Do you need to do that now about a matter?

### **Chapter 12: How Does God Speak to His Children?**

If you have children or opportunities to be around children, look for times to teach them to begin to listen to the Lord. What are some advantages of learning to listen at an early age?

The author lists 12 suggestions in learning to listen (pages 152-157). Which one of those suggestions stood out to you? Why?

Discuss the four ways that God speaks to us today: the *Word of God*, the *Holy Spirit*; the *godly counsel* of others and our *circumstances*. Can you give an example from this week how God spoke to you in one of these ways?

Discuss how you can discern between the voice of the Lord, your own voice, and the voice of the Enemy? Also, what are some hindrances that can get in the way of listening for God?

### **Chapter 13: Reaping the Rewards of Listening**

Spend some time asking the Lord if there is a word he would like to put on your heart to work into the fabric of your life. It may be a word like: kindness, hospitality, trust, hope, prayer, listening, integrity, etc. Share your word with the group, and on occasion, give updates on how the Lord is using that word in your life.

Listening to God has so many benefits for the listener! The biggest benefit is it helps you to become more Christ-like. Listening to God can affect your home life, your job, dating, parenting, relationships and the way you share your faith with others. Can you share a story about a time when you listened to God?

Talk about these guidelines for listening for God throughout your day:

Expect God to speak.

Be attentive for his voice.

Invite the Lord to interrupt your day (and night!).

Be available.

Obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Try beginning each day with this prayer: “Lord Jesus, I want to listen for you and to recognize your voice. Please help me to partner with you today to do things that will impact eternity.”