

# Session 1 - Discerning and Hearing God's Voice

**Objective:** Use this guide during your online class to reflect, engage with Scripture, and apply practical steps to discern and hear God's voice.

## I. Introduction: God's Desire to Speak

- **Key Scripture:** *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* (John 10:27)
- **Reflect:** Take a moment to think about how God has spoken to you in the past. Write down one instance where you felt God's leading.

## II. Biblical Examples of Hearing God's Voice

### 1) Moses at the Burning Bush

- a) **Scripture Reference:** *"God called to him from the midst of the bush..."* (Exodus 3:4)
- b) **Reflection:** Moses stopped and turned aside to listen to God. What distractions can you turn aside from to hear God more clearly? Write them down.

### 2) Samuel's Calling

- a) **Scripture Reference:** *"Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times..."* (1 Samuel 3:10)
- b) **Activity:** Practice Samuel's response by saying aloud, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening."
- c) **Write:** What do you sense God might be saying to you in this moment?

## III. Ways God Speaks

### 1) Through Scripture

- a) **Key Verse:** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* (2 Timothy 3:16)
- b) **Activity:** Read Psalm 23 and ask God what He is speaking to you through this passage. Write down your thoughts.

## **2) Through the Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...”* (Romans 8:16)
- b) **Reflection:** Pause and ask, “Holy Spirit, what do You want to confirm in my heart today?” Write down any impressions.

## **3) Through Dreams, Visions, and Circumstances**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“...your young men shall see visions...”* (Acts 2:17)
- b) **Key Verse:** *“The heavens declare the glory of God...”* (Psalm 19:1)
- c) **Write:** Reflect on a recent dream, vision, or situation where you sense God speaking. How can you seek His guidance for understanding it?

## **IV. Developing Spiritual Sensitivity**

### **1) Through Prayer and Meditation**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“...in His law he meditates day and night.”* (Psalm 1:2)
- b) **Activity:** Spend two minutes meditating on this verse: *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10). Write down any impressions or thoughts.

### **2) Through Active Listening**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* (Psalm 46:10)
- b) **Action Step:** After this class, dedicate five minutes in silence, asking God to speak. Record any Scriptures, impressions, or ideas you receive.

## **V. Discerning God’s Voice**

### **1) Alignment with Scripture**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“Test the spirits, whether they are of God...”* (1 John 4:1)
- b) **Activity:** Take one thought or impression you believe is from God and compare it with Scripture. Does it align with His Word?

### **2) Confirmation Through Community**

- a) **Key Verse:** *“...in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”* (Proverbs 11:14)
- b) **Write:** Who can you share your thoughts or impressions with for confirmation and guidance? Make a note to connect with them.

## **Personal Reflection Questions**

- 1) What steps will you take this week to create space to hear God's voice?
- 2) How will you test what you hear to ensure it aligns with God's Word?
- 3) Who can help you stay accountable as you grow in discerning God's voice?

## **Prayer of Commitment**

“Lord, I thank You for speaking to me. Open my ears to hear You clearly and my heart to respond in faith. Help me to recognize Your voice through Scripture, prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Teach me to trust Your leading in every area of my life. Amen.”

## **Takeaway Scripture for the Week:**

*“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)*