

# 1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

# December 22, 2021 Listening to God



Sundays at 9:30 Listening to God



Friday Jan 7th 6:30pm



Wed January 5th

The Chosen Official Trailer

Questions answered about The Chosen by the director

View the entire first two seasons here

Midweek Youth
On break until January 5th

Join us every Wed. from 7-8pm for fellowship and prayer along with lessons applying Biblical principles to your life today and get answers to all your questions.

Foster Care Teens
Personal Care Items

We are still collecting

"Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into



Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through The Big-Picture Story of the Bible

### Wednesday Nights at 7:00pm

On break until January 5th

Join us every Wednesday night from 7:00pm to 8:00pm for an exciting new series about seeing the "Thread" of the Gospel through the entire Bible.

Together, we will see that Jesus was God's word made in the flesh, as both messenger and the message of God's salvation for all and He can be seen throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and everywhere in between.

Sundays at 9:30am



Listening to God

A couple of weeks ago, we discussed how we can not

personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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Bible verse of the week

#### Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

only talk to God but we can hear God as well. We said that a true relationship involves conversations in which there is talking and also listening. Many times we get the talking to God part but we forget to listen to Him.

We said that God is not only always listening for us, He is also always speaking to us. All we need to do is listen.

We said that one reason we have such a hard time hearing God is because we have so much "noise" in our lives. We clarified that "noise" can not only be audible sound in our environment but also the many distractions we have such as emails, texting, social media, phones, TV, etc. We said that "noise" can even include our own thoughts. With all that "noise" going on, it's no wonder we can't hear God speaking to us.

We said that in order to hear God, above all the "noise", we must make an effort to actively listen.

We talked about several ways to help us hear God.

First, we looked at Jesus and how whenever He wanted to talk with God, He went off by himself, away from any noise and distractions. Not so that God could hear Him but so that He could hear God. In **Matthew 6**, He taught His Disciples to do the same thing when they pray.

We thought about what little "noise" that Jesus had 2000 years ago compared to the "noise" we face now. Yet, Jesus chose to go off by Himself, not only so He could hear God but to also teach us how we can hear God. We said to go to a quiet place where we won't be disturbed, turn off all our electronics, and empty our thoughts of any worries or distractions and just be with God.

Second, we said to not expect anything weird or big and dramatic, like we sometimes see in the movies. God speaks to us in many different ways. He can put images in our heads like a dream as He did with Joseph in Genesis 37-50. It can be words or feelings on our hearts or remembering or hearing certain lines in songs. We can suddenly get an idea that we've never thought of before. Sometimes we can simply feel a state of peace and calm with the decision we've made. God can put other people or even angels in our lives to guide us or He may put us in a specific situation as an answer to our prayer or even to the prayers of others that we may be the answer for.

We also said to not be discouraged if you don't immediately get a response. Sometimes we're just not ready for the answer God has for us. He may need to prepare us for His answer first. So, His answer may be, wait.

Another thing is that sometimes the answer that we get is not what we expected or even wanted so we may tend to ignore it and keep asking looking for an answer that makes sense to us. You can keep asking the same question and God will keep giving you the same answer.

The third thing is to believe that God even wants to speak to you. The first step in hearing God is really believing that He wants to speak to you. We said that it's really easy for us to come up with all kinds of reasons why we think we're not worthy or to not believe that God would even want to talk to us after something we've done and the enemy is all to pleased to help reinforce those thoughts.

We said that God may not be thrilled with something you may have done but He is absolutely thrilled that you are talking to Him and He is **always** speaking to you no matter what you may have done, even when you're not even speaking to Him.

We finished up with probably the most important part. How do you know it's God or just your imagination or worse yet, the enemy speaking to you?

For starters, God's voice will never, ever, go against His character or His word or contradict anything that Jesus taught us. God's way will also always help and never hurt. Finally, God's way brings peace. Once you come into agreement, turning your worries over to Him, you will feel calm and at peace (Philippians 4:6-7).

God wants a loving relationship with you that includes trust and good conversation. Rest assured that He always hears you and is always speaking to you.

The more you speak to and listen to God, the easier it will be to talk to Him openly and the easier it will be to hear Him speaking to you.

## **Upcoming Events**

## First Friday Youth Movie Night

Join us at LWA on <u>January 7th</u>, at 6:30pm for Youth Movie Night!

The movie will be the 2014 drama,
"When The Game Stands Tall".
For youth, grades 7-12, friends and families.



