

# Hearing God

" Thus says the Lord who made the earth,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: 'Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.'" Jeremiah 33:2-3 (NRSV)

## Opening Prayer

**Check-In** (Share Prayer Experience)

## Video ("Learning to Listen" from *The Prayer Course*)

1. " Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go, whether to the right or to the left.'" **Isaiah 30:20-21**

**What are some of the ways that God speaks to us? Does God usually tell us exactly what to do or what will happen? What have been some of your previous expectations for how God would speak? Let's discuss them.**

2. " And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you." **John 14:16-17**

We sometimes ask if what we are hearing in our prayers is from God, or an expression of our own desires, or a distraction from some satanic source. We are given help in discerning what we are hearing in several ways. The most important help in discernment is the Bible, the inspired Word of God. Reading and praying the Bible is of immense importance. Other sources of help in discernment are

pastors, reliable friends and family members, the beauty of creation, our conscience, art, natural events, and of course through the Holy Spirit.

**Let's discuss how we can decide if God is speaking to us when we are unsure or confused. Can you tell of an instance in which you had to discern if what you were hearing was from God or some other source?**

**Closing Observations**

**Assignment(s): Daily Prayer for Fifteen Minutes**

**Practice Leading Prayer**

" For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable."

**Hebrews 4:12-13**

**Sharing Prayer Needs**

**Closing Prayer**

All Bible quotes are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.