

LEARNING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

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INTRODUCTION

I. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND BE UNDERSTOOD

You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. — James 1:19

"Most people have relatively little insight into their own lives. Perhaps people's lives are unexamined because no one is listening to them." — John Savage

A. What stories are being told?

- Stories about transitions – the pain of the journey
- Stories about the past - which inform the present
- Stories about others – why are they telling it?

B. Part of listening is asking questions.

- Be looking for hints
- Determine how they feel
- Clarify exaggerations

C. How to help others listen to you

- Reflect back what you think they just said.
- Don't change the subject when you get uncomfortable
- Share openly with people you trust

II. TOO MUCH NOISE MAKES HEARING DIFFICULT

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. — James 1:21

A. God's revelation to us helps guide us and limit our choices. (See Acts 17: 26-27)

Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. — Isaiah 55:3

III. FILTER OUT THE NOISE AND GET FOCUSED

Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. — James 1:22

A. Why we fail to act:

- Indecision and distractions
- Criticism instead of encouragement
- Lack of opportunity or resources
- Fear of failing

He calls his own sheep by name...and they follow him because they know his voice. — John 10:3-4

B. Steps to awareness and action

- What is your story? Your dreams, talents, desires
- What hints is God giving at this time – are you stopping and listening?

- What parts of your life need correcting?
- Listen to what bothers you. It might be a message
- Ask God to help you find your passion.

...don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. — James 1:25

He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious;

I have not drawn back.

— Isaiah 50:4-5

CONCLUSION