

# 40 Days OF PRAYER

## SESSION FOUR “Can You Hear Me Now?”

### OPENING

If you could only ask God for guidance in one area of your life, what would it be?

### MEMORY VERSE

*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”*  
Jeremiah 33:3

### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read 1 Kings 19:11-13. What lessons can be learned from this passage about how God speaks to us and gives us direction?
2. Read Psalm 46. In times of turmoil, we want to hear from God. What lessons do we learn from this passage about responding to challenging times?
3. Read Romans 12:1-10. What must happen in order for us to know God's will? How does this happen?
4. Summarize what you have learned so far. What is necessary if we are to hear from and be guided by God?
5. Read 1 John 2:3-6. What happens when we “know” and “live in” Christ? What does it mean to “know” and “live in” Christ?”
6. Read John 15:12-15. What is described as the difference between a servant and a friend? What is required to be Jesus' friend?
7. Read Micah 3:4. (Everyone knows that's at the back of the Old Testament between Jonah and Nahum, right?) What happens when we fail to obey God?

8. While it is true that God does give us specific and personal direction, the vast majority of God's will for us has already been given to us in the Bible (see John 15:15 again). So, what role does obedience play in hearing from God?
  
9. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Identify at least 3 lessons that we can learn from Isaiah about hearing God's call and direction?
  
10. Have you had an experience of God giving you specific guidance and direction? Please share the experience with the group. Focus on how you sensed that this direction was from God? How did you confirm it?
  
11. Brainstorm additional ways God uses to give us specific guidance and direction?
  
12. From this study, what role does prayer play in discerning God's will?

### **Confirming God's Guidance**

God call us to be discerning and test whether or not something we are sensing is from God or are own foolishness. Here are some proven tests wise Christians have used for ages to discern God's leading.

1. Check it against the Bible. God will not contradict His Word.
2. Seek godly wisdom. Find wise, mature believers, not people who will automatically agree with you or people who like to offer advice but people who will ask probing and insightful questions. Share with them what you are sensing and let them probe.
3. Pray for additional confirmation and for wisdom and discernment.
4. Has God given you a passion for it?
5. Will it stretch your faith and possibly require sacrifice? God often calls us to take a step beyond our current abilities and confidence levels.

### Practice

In the Daily Devotional Guide, you are encouraged to use the “4 C's” to reflect on the scripture passage each day. From your study in this session, share your answer to any one of the “4 C's”

- What can you CELEBRATE?
- What will you COMMIT to?
- What do you need to CONFESS?
- What will you COMMUNICATE to someone else?

## PRAYER

Our prayer exercise for this session will be an exercise you may or may not have ever tried before. The exercise is called Prayer Journaling. A Prayer Journal is simply a written out prayer and can be either a one-way or two-way conversation with God.

This exercise will be a two-way conversation where you right out your thoughts, feelings, questions and requests of God. Then you listen and write down what you feel God is saying or would say in response. The benefit of writing is that it keeps you focused on God and prayer and it helps you clarify your thoughts as well as listen more intently for God's thoughts.

So, on the back of this sheet write down your conversation with God.

Before I (Phil) first tried this, I thought this sounded a little too "gimmicky" but, like you, I was part of a study that was doing this as an exercise so I felt compelled to reluctantly try it. I started slow, in fact when my wife read my prayer later she burst out laughing at my first few sentences. (Don't worry, years of marital counseling has since repaired the damage) However, once I got going I was amazed at the impact this simple exercise had on me and especially how it sharpened my awareness of what God was saying to me. So, go ahead and experiment and see what happens.

### Follow-up Questions

1. What was this experience like for you? Did you enjoy it? Find it boring? Were you surprised?
2. The thoughts you wrote down for God, do you feel they were truly from God or just fabrications of your mind? Why or why not? Can God speak by putting thoughts in our mind? How can we seek confirmation that these thoughts are God's thoughts?