

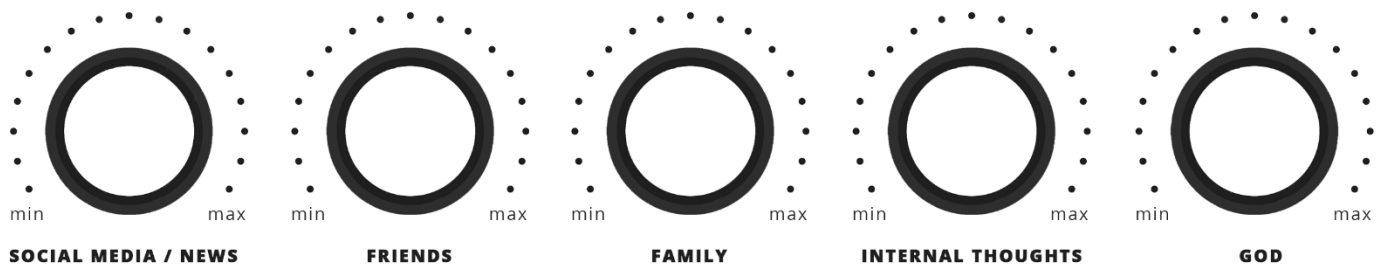


BIBLE HABITS

CONVERSATION #3: Hearing God's Voice in the Scriptures

ICEBREAKER: VOLUME CONTROL

Take a moment to reflect on the different voices competing for your attention right now. Using the dials below, mark where the volume level would be for each category - how loud or influential that voice feels in your everyday life.



DISCUSS:

- Which voice is turned up the loudest right now? Why do you think that is?
- Which voice do you *wish* had more volume?
- What tends to turn God's voice down in your life?

STUDY: "MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE"

The Bible isn't just a source of information or inspiration; it's one of the primary ways God communicates with us. Learning to recognize God's voice in Scripture is a key part of spiritual maturity -it's the shift from relying on others to hear from God on our behalf to personally listening for His voice and confidently responding in obedience. God doesn't speak only to pastors, leaders, or especially spiritual people - He speaks personally to His people through Scripture.

In John chapter 10, the group of Jews who had been following Jesus asks Him to tell them directly if He is the Messiah. They've seen His miracles, they've heard His teaching, and now they want Jesus to tell them once and for all if He is the One they've been waiting for.

Read Jesus' response in John 10:25-30. Jesus says a lot in this passage, but for a moment, let's slow down and focus specifically on verse 27. What is Jesus saying here?

In John 10, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd and sheep to show how His followers relate to Him. Sheep don't recognize a shepherd's voice instantly - they learn it over time through repeated exposure and relationship. Jesus also makes it clear that hearing comes before following; obedience flows out of listening, not pressure or perfection.

At the heart of this teaching is relationship - *knowing* the Shepherd comes before *doing* what He says. This is an important reframe for us: you don't need to be an expert to hear God's voice. You simply need to show up, stay open, and keep practicing. You need to listen for His voice.

If hearing God starts with relationship, then the next question is *how* that voice reaches us in real life. Jesus doesn't leave that vague. One of the primary ways the Shepherd speaks is through God's Word itself - not as something distant or outdated, but as something active and personal.

READ HEBREWS 4:12

- What do you think it means for God's Word to be *alive* rather than just true?
- How have you seen Scripture speak differently to you at different seasons of life?
- Why do you think God chose to speak through a living Word instead of a static set of rules?
- How does the idea that Scripture is active change the way you approach reading it?
- What do you think it looks like to "listen" to Scripture rather than just read it?

READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- What do you think Paul means when he says that the scriptures are "God-breathed"?
- Which of the four purposes listed (teaching, rebuking, correcting, training) feels easiest for you to receive? Which feels hardest?
- What does this passage suggest Scripture is meant to *do* in us - not just tell us?

CHALLENGE: THE FIRST DIAL

This week, picture your life as a soundboard. Each morning, before the noise of the day begins, intentionally turn down the volume on other voices. Don't start your day with scrolling, responding to notifications, consuming the news, or being distracted by podcasts. Instead, turn up the volume on God's voice.

Open the Bible before consuming any other content and read one short passage from a Psalm, the Gospels, or Proverbs. As you read, ask one simple question: "*God, what do You want me to notice today?*" Then write down just one sentence about what stands out - no pressure to be deep or polished. This challenge isn't about getting it right; it's about training your ears to recognize God's voice by giving it the highest volume to start your day.