



Sermon Discussion Guide

Hearing God's Voice

Week 3: When you don't want to be on speaking terms with God

Psalm 22 | August 16, 2020

Big Idea

Praying through the pain and through seasons in which we don't want to be on speaking terms with God is an important aspect to hearing God's voice.

Opening Questions

1. Based on last week's sermon on solitude have you had any success turning off the noise around you in order to be in solitude and silence with God?

General Sermon Thoughts/Questions

1. Sometimes it is hard to pray and there are times when we don't want to be on speaking terms with God. Have you experienced this? If so, when and what were the circumstances surrounding that?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **Matthew 26:36-46**. Jesus knows the pain of when God says no. What might Jesus be feeling in this moment and why? How can this encourage us in our relationship with God; and specifically, our understanding of prayer?
2. Sometimes God's answer to our prayer in "No". Sometimes is it "Yes". And sometimes it is "Not yet". Can you share a personal example of any (or all) of those?
3. Read **Matthew 27:45-46**. Where is Jesus at this time? Now read **Psalm 77:1-9**. What, at its core, is Jesus really doing in Matthew 27 before God that nearly one-third of the Psalms (like Psalm 77) demonstrate people doing toward God? Have you ever struggled feeling okay with praying this honestly with God? Why? After this week's sermon do you see this honesty as more acceptable or no? Why or why not?
4. Read **Psalm 77:1-20** and note the turn the Psalm takes after vs 1-9. What does this section of the Psalm demonstrate is helpful to us when we are feeling like we don't want to be on speaking terms with God? What are things from your own life that you can recall as a reminder of God's goodness and ultimate care of you?
5. Read **Psalm 22**. We see early on in this Psalm the words borrowed by Jesus as spoken in Matthew 27. In this Psalm you can almost see the writer (David) arguing with himself. The Psalm vacillates from complaint to praise and a recognition of who God is. Walk through the Psalm as a group and identify the shifts from complaining to praise that appear in it.
6. Any additional thoughts or things you recall from the sermon that made an impact upon you or stuck with

you (i.e. Madeline's story)?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to now do?
3. Beyond prayer for each other is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

"Lord, thank you for patiently waiting for us to honestly and authentically open up, and for always hearing our prayers. Help us to experience your love as we cry out to you in prayer. Amen!"