Life Group Discussion Questions

Message: Hearing from God Part 1
Date: September 20, 2026

1. [UP] In 1 Samuel 3:1–10, God called Samuel multiple times before Samuel recognized His voice. Why do you think it is often easy to misidentify or miss God's voice in our daily lives? What rhythms help you tune in to Him?

2. [UP] In John 10:4–5, Jesus says His sheep follow Him because they *know* His voice and will run from a stranger's voice. How do we train our ears to distinguish between the Shepherd's voice and the competing "stranger" voices (culture, fear, self-reliance) around us?

Cross-Reference: Read **1 John 4:1**. How does aligning what we hear with God's revealed Word in Scripture help us test the spirits and confirm His voice?

3. [UP] Eli told Samuel to respond with, *"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"* (1 Samuel 3:9). What is the difference between listening to God to gather information versus listening as a posture of a servant ready to obey?

Cross-Reference: Read **James 1:22–25**. How does being a "doer of the word" begin with the way we listen to God?

4. [UP] We defined a disciple as *"a follower of Jesus who hears from God and does what He says"*. When you look at your past week, which part of that definition felt more natural to you—the hearing/listening side, or the doing/acting side?

Cross-Reference: Read **Luke 10:38–42** (Mary and Martha). How do we maintain a healthy balance between sitting at Jesus' feet and serving Him in our daily routines?

5. [IN] In the sermon, Brent and Sarah shared how listening to God requires self-awareness—like noticing a tendency to people-please or stepping out of comfort zones. What internal noise, character trait, or habit makes it hardest for *you* to slow down and create space for God?

6. [IN] Creating space to hear God often means laying down a distraction. What is one specific distraction (scrolling, media, podcasts, busywork) you feel challenged to replace this week with silent prayer and listening?

7. [IN] In 1 Samuel 3:7, it notes that Samuel did not yet fully know the Lord because the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him in that way. Who in your life or community helped you first learn to recognize God's presence and voice? How can this group help keep each other accountable in our quiet time with Him?

8. [IN] Listening to God often happens in community, just as Eli helped Samuel discern God's call. Has there been a time when a fellow believer helped you clarify or confirm something you felt God was saying to you? How can we better practice that kind of spiritual encouragement together?

Cross-Reference: Read **Proverbs 27:17** and **Hebrews 10:24–25**.

9. [OUT] Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who calls His sheep *by name* and leads them out (John 10:3). Who in your circle of influence (co-workers, neighbors, family) does not yet know the voice of the Shepherd? How can we be praying for them by name this week?

10. [OUT] When we hear from God, He often sends us out to love and serve others. Has God ever prompted you to reach out to, pray for, or encourage a specific person out of nowhere? What happened when you acted on that prompt?

Cross-Reference: Read **Acts 8:26–31** (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch). What step of obedience did Philip take when he heard the Spirit speak?

11. [OUT] Living out the mission to "Make Him Known" requires us to be attentive to the physical and spiritual needs around us. How can our Life Group practically listen to God's heart for our local neighborhood or community this season?

Cross-Reference: Read **Jeremiah 29:7** or **Matthew 5:14–16**.

12. [OUT] If you take the challenge this week to pray *"Speak Lord, your servant is listening,"* how might being tuned in to God's voice change the way you step into your workplace, school, or home tomorrow morning?