

If my people pray

Listening in Prayer 1 Kings 19:11-13

Message Reflection Guide

1 Samuel 3:10 *"And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."*

We need to be like Samuel, willing to pause in the midst of life's turmoil to hear the voice of the Lord. And we have this opportunity if we prayerfully read and study the Bible regularly. You see, God's Spirit communicates to us through the Word.

Thomas a Kempis (1379-1471) summed it up well when he wrote: *"Blessed indeed are those ears which listen not for the voice sounding without, but for the truth teaching inwardly. Blessed are the eyes that are shut to outward things but intent on things inward. Blessed are they who are glad to have time to spare for God, and who shake off all worldly hindrances. Consider these things, O my soul, and hear what the Lord your God speaks."*

Conversation Starter

What is a sound that you hate to hear?

Getting Into The Scriptures

Read aloud 1 Kings 19:11-13.

Pastor Jason said "It is God's nature to speak. We listen because God has something good to say to us." How have you experienced God speak to you in the past? What did he say? Was it easy or difficult to obey what you heard?

Listening means letting go of noise. How much of your day is filled with noise? (audio or visual noise) In what ways do you use noise to numb what you are feeling inside?

Listening means discerning. What does discernment mean to you? Share a story about a time where using discernment helped you make a good decision.

Listening means letting go of control. What are some areas of your life that you like to control? How would you respond if God spoke to you and asked you to do something radically different from what you are doing now? Ex: Sell everything, move to Korea and start a church.

Making It Real

How can you begin to introduce some listening silent time into your day? When would you do it? Who's help would you need to pull that off?

How to be silent with God:

- 1) Set a timer.
- 2) Ground your time in scripture.
- 3) Have a notepad and pen handy.
- 4) Tell God you are ready to listen. Invite Him to speak.