

Hearing God | Week 3 - How we hear God's voice through the Holy Spirit

Message Big Idea

God communicates with us through his Spirit within us, who gently whispers to our hearts and our minds.

Scripture

1 Kings 19:1-18, Isaiah 30:21 and John 14:26

Points to Keep In Mind

1. 1 Kings 18 is about Elijah challenging the followers of false gods to a contest to see which god would show up, their god or His God, the God of Israel. It's an incredible story of God's power and faithfulness, so feel free to read it with your group if time allows. If not, you can always ask someone to summarize or share the summary yourself.
2. In 1 Kings 19:1-18, God speaks to Elijah in a whisper. Not a fire from heaven, but a small, still whisper. In his book *How to Hear God*, author Pete Greig states, "...perhaps the problem with such displays of power, and the reason God patently refrains from speaking in such ways most of the time, is that they belie the fundamental gentleness and intimacy of his heart. Dramatic revelations impress, for sure, but they can also intimidate, dominate and alienate those on the receiving end. And so the 'Potentate of time, Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime' chooses to whisper in our ear way more often than he shouts from the skies."
3. When describing the Holy Spirit, some might say the wind, the third person of the Trinity or fire. Perhaps the strongest illustration in this story of Elijah and God is someone whispering, as described in Isaiah 30:21. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as our Advocate (or Helper, Counselor and Comforter) in John 14:26.
4. Another idea to help combat physical noise getting in the way of hearing from God through His Holy Spirit is creating small solitude moments throughout the day. This may seem impossible, especially if you have children, but it can be as simple as driving to work, walking between meetings or early in the morning or late at night. Refusing to turn to your phone in these moments and instead turn to God can make all the difference.

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting: youplus.info
7. How have you been able to BLESS others recently? (B-begin with prayer, L-listen, E-eat, S-serve and S-share your story)