



WEEK 5: GOD SPEAKS, PART 1

KEY TEXT – JOHN 8:47

MESSAGE NOTES:

1. Share any thoughts or insights you had from your SOAP Journal or from your homework in the workbook on Unit 4.
2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself as a listener? Who is the hardest person in your life to listen to?
3. We have been talking about how God is at work around us, and invites us to become part of his plans. Read Psalms 33:10-11 and Amos 3:7. What do these verses tell us about man's plans and God's plans?
4. Read 1 Samuel 3:7-14. Eli was the priest at the time, and he would know how God speaks. Why do you think it took him so long to recognize that God was talking to Samuel? What was the key Eli gave to Samuel (and to us) to help him hear from God?
5. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. What is the difference between how God spoke in the past and how he speaks now? What do the following scriptures add to our understanding of how God (through the Holy Spirit) speaks to us now: 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-14.
6. Read John 10:11-14, 25-30 and review Reality # 2. How does our connection with God (through Jesus & the Spirit) affect how we are able to hear God's voice?
7. Share some practical ways you have learned to hear from the Holy Spirit through each of the following ways that God speaks to us: the Bible (personal study, SOAP Journals, memorization, etc.), messages (teaching), conversations with others, conversations with God in prayer, and circumstances.
8. What one thing can you focus on this week that would make you a better listener in your work? Your marriage? With God?

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: John 10

S – Scripture – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O – Observation – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A – Application – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P – Prayer – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.