

SAMPLE

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hear His voice

*know His calling*

# Hear His Voice, Know His Calling

## Introduction

It is abundantly clear from reading the Bible that God has spoken to women in the past—but is God still speaking to women in the present? How can we know the call of God on our lives and passionately pursue it? Knowing God's call begins with attentive listening. Recognizing God's voice in the midst of so many voices is a skill that we must develop. Responding to His call requires wisdom and discernment as we consider how that unique call might be fulfilled. This study is designed to help women embrace God's calling and better know His purpose for their lives. These lessons are written to help women understand that God has not stopped speaking and to be on the receiving end of God's communication is joyful and adventuresome. We never know where God might lead and what exactly He has in mind for us to do. One thing is for sure, as we obediently listen to His voice, we will discover that God has great and mighty things in store for each one of us.

## Session 1: Hearing God's Call in the Home

The first challenge is to hear and answer God's call on our lives. This lesson explores the call Samuel received from God and how God is still speaking to women in our present day.

## Session 2: Staying Spiritually Focused in the Home

The home is a testing ground for God's call. In this study participants will enter into the home of Martha where she and Mary are truly known by Jesus. This lesson will help women improve spiritual focus in the home.

## Session 3: Hearing God's Call to Serve the Church

This lesson discusses women and their call to serve the Church. Using Miriam's call to be a prophetess as an example, the role of women in Christian service is explored.

## Session 4: Hearing God's Call to Serve the Community

By affirming the role of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this lesson challenges participants to think beyond the four walls of the church. Women are encouraged to break out of the "Christian bubble" and build relationships with people in their respective workplaces and neighborhoods.

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# Hearing God's Call in the Home

## Materials Needed

- Copies of student handout
- A cell phone
- Pencils

## Lesson Objective

To know the hope of God's calling for us as women in our homes.

## Connect

Start this session on a lighthearted note by asking each participant to locate her personal cell phone. Discuss how our lives are different and maybe more distractible due to advances in digital technology. Ask each participant to respond to the following questions:

- How many calls or text messages do you receive in a day?
- How do you decide which calls or messages are important to take right away and which can wait?
- Describe circumstances or conditions in which you turn off your cell phone. Are you more inclined to hear what God is saying? How so?

What would happen if we turned off our cell phones in order to more clearly hear from God?

Transition to the CONSIDER section with the following words of encouragement: *God is still speaking. The Lord's call is upon each one of us. This lesson will challenge us to consider whether or not we are listening and responding to God's call of love on our lives. In faith, silence or turn off your cell phones in the time that remains. Anticipate hearing from God and responding to His voice. Just like cell phones give us an option to silence or ignore a call, we can do the same when God is calling.*

## Consider

*[The lesson part of the session, remember to keep it discussion oriented]*

Someone is always calling... Telemarketers, family, neighbors, girlfriends, etc. Somehow the phone is always ringing. If you're a young mother, your children call for you constantly. (If your children are grown, they probably don't call you enough.) If you are married, your husband calls you—he needs your help finding something. Your boss, your co-workers, your customers call. Cell phones, e-mail and intercoms summon you every day. Instinctively, you answer the call.

Have you given thought to the Lord's calling for your life? The first challenge is to answer His call. The good news is that the Lord's call is prompted by His love for us.

What does He have to say about the way you live your life? How can you acknowledge His Lordship of your life in the choices you make, in the lifestyle you choose, in the daily activities that involve you?

Turn your Bibles to 1 Samuel 3 where the Lord speaks to Samuel. Consider how the Lord might be speaking to you today. Read Samuel's story and answer the following questions:

God often speaks to us in familiar places and calls us to do things that positively impact the family.

God is asking, "Can you hear me now?"

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- What is the significance of verse 1 where the writer describes the word of the Lord as rare? How is that similar to your experience? Share your thoughts about hearing God's voice in the busyness of life.
- Where was Samuel sleeping, according to verse 3? How many times did the young man hear his name called? Share the significance of the Lord's call coming to us repeatedly in our lives.
- What is Samuel's response when he thinks that Eli is the one calling him? (See verses 4, 6, and 8).
- His mentor and instructor, Eli, instructs Samuel on the proper response for answering God's call. What was he to say? How might Eli's instructions be relevant for us today?
- When God's calling came to Samuel, it was not an easy message. He had hard things to say to Eli. According to verses 17-18, what was Samuel's response to Eli's questions the next day? What does this teach you about your relationship with other believers?
- What were the results of Samuel's faithful obedience to God's calling on his life (verse 19)? Even when the world does not understand your call from God, what can you expect in your life?

From the beginning of time, the home was established as a place of hearing and responding to God's call. Samuel heard God's voice in his regular place of sleep. God often speaks to us in familiar places and calls us to do things that positively impact the family. Too often women fall prey to overstuffed schedules that divert attention away from hearing what God has to say. Yet the Lord's voice is persistent and loving. Consider how women might hear God's voice in new and fresh ways in the home. Ask participants to offer suggestions. What changes can be made in daily routines that allow the Lord's voice to be heard?

### Commit

Hearing the Lord's voice can be a part of our everyday journey with God. The prophet Elijah heard God's voice in a whisper. Mary heard God's voice through an angel. Joseph heard God's voice in a dream. God speaks to us various ways. Moreover, hearing God's voice is a discipline that we must practice. Slowing down, removing distractions and practicing solitude can be helpful steps in making us more receptive. Take a few minutes and allow participants to respond to the following questions.

- How is God speaking to you these days? Through what means does He speak?
- Share about a time when God spoke to you in the messiness of life. What did He say?
- When God speaks to you in a familiar place like your home, what is your response?
- What, if any, barriers exist that may be preventing you from hearing God's voice?
- How can a mentor, or a fellow believer help you hear God's voice more accurately?

End the session in a time of group prayer where each individual has an opportunity to identify barriers that might exist between her and God. Allow for a time of silent or guided prayer where these issues can be surrendered to God. Encourage members to devote themselves to a time of personal prayer in the coming week using 1 Samuel 3:10 as a prayer focus. Ask for responses to this exercise at the next group meeting.

# The Lord's Call Softly Spoken

Read 1 Samuel 3 on your own and reflect on verse 10 where it says, "Speak, for your servant is listening." In a time of silence and solitude prayerfully recite this verse to the Lord.

Record your thoughts and reflections on 1 Samuel 3:10 in a journal or notebook. Describe the significance of hearing God's voice and how that impacts your family.

Read and reflect on Proverbs 8:34. What does this verse have in common with John 10:27?

In the space below, write a prayer that expresses your desire to fulfill the Lord's calling in your home and community.

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