

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** The Voice. The seeking heart

**Introduction:** The aim of this talk was to develop the idea that knowing God's voice is a part of a deepening relationship with Him, and not a 'stand-alone' spiritual exercise.

**Review:** (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

**Read:** Psalm 25:12-15; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 2:1-10

**Reflect:**

- David developed the Biblical idea of 'fear-of-the-Lord' as a way of understanding our friendship with God. Bearing in mind the passages you have just read and some of the other Scriptures mentioned in the talk, discuss in what ways 'fear-of-the-Lord' is described: Passages above and Exodus 20:20; Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 112:1; Isaiah 33:6; Psalm 34:8-13
- If you had to devise a question to test yourself on the degree to which you live in the 'fear-of-the-Lord', what would it be? Discuss your various ideas as a group and see if you can come up with just one question that works for you all.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11. Why do you think Paul makes a connection between 'fear-of-the-Lord' and sharing faith with others?
- Why do you think "the Lord confides in those who fear him" (Ps 25:14)? In what way do members of the group feel God has 'confided in them'.
- Living in deep relationship with God, means that we distinguish his voice more easily (John 10:27). Can anyone give recent example of 'hearing God's voice' in some way? What made them believe that it was God speaking?
- David offered four ways of deepening our relationship with God (see if people can remember them, if not remind them:
  - (1) Seek it - Proverbs 2:1-5 - cry out to God and 'ask, seek, knock' for the deeper life
  - (2) Receive it - Proverbs 2:6-10 - open yourself to the Spirit and receive his help
  - (3) Learn it - Deuteronomy 31:12 - open your Bible and remind yourself of just how great God IS - who else would you want to live in 'fear' of?!
  - (4) Worship - Psalm 96:1-4. - remind yourself of the greatness of God through praising him with others.

Can group members say which of these approaches (a) they find most helpful in developing their love for God and hearing his voice (b) they have some experience of (c) they would like to grow in?

---

**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

**Respond:** What has tonight's discussion had to say about how you each might grow in:  
**Love for God**

**Love for one another**

**Love for neighbour & world**

**And finally:**

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?