

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 10th January 2016

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: The Voice. any place : anytime

Introduction: The aim of this talk was to alert people to the possibility of discovering the voice of God in the ordinary places of every day life.

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

Read: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Reflect:

“Hearing God’s voice demands an awareness of God’s presence”

- How often is God present in our everyday lives? (Psalm 139:1-12)
- How often have people been *aware* of God’s presence in everyday life in this past week?
 - What made them aware of his presence?

V17: “open his eyes so that he may see”. In his talk David talked about the reasons why we may become blind to the ‘window’ into heaven in our everyday lives. Which of those reasons can you remember - and can you think of any other reasons why we become fixated with the ‘visible’ and lose sight of the ‘invisible’ in everyday life?

David mentioned three things through which God might speak: Creation: Culture: Circumstances. Can you think of any Biblical examples of each of these, and can group members give examples from their own lives?

1 Thessalonians 8:18. Thanksgiving reminds us that ‘someone else is around’ and attunes our souls to the presence of God in everything. Read John 11:41-42. Does this explain why Jesus gives thanks here? Have any group members been experimenting with the ‘thanksgiving diet’ that David suggested? How has it gone?

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:

Love for God

How might Elisha's servant's love for God have been affected by 'having his eyes opened'?

Love for one another

How might it transform our relationships in the church if we viewed one another as a window onto heaven?

Love for neighbour & world

The Elisha story continues and concludes with a lot more eye opening and shutting (see 2 Kings 6:18-23). Elisha's unexpected treatment of the prisoners in vs 22-23 must surely have been because he had his eyes and ears open to God. How might listening to God affect our treatment of those around us on our frontline?

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?