

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** 3 January 2016

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** The Voice: Possible & Personal

**Introduction:** This talk starts a new series at TBC in which we will be thinking about what it means to hear the voice of God today.

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

- **How do people in the group react to the idea of hearing God speak to them?**
- Can anyone give a recent example of something they heard God say?
- How many examples can the group think of, where God addresses an individual in some way in the Bible? (there are lots!). In each case (a) how does he speak and (b) how does the individual 'hear' the voice?

**Read:** Exodus 3:1-15

**Reflect:**

What has Moses done to prepare himself for hearing God's voice? (**Leader:** Let the group discuss - but the answer is 'nothing'! In fact, in his talk, David suggested that, if asked, Moses might have considered himself to be totally unprepared to encounter God). Later in this series we will consider how we might position ourselves to be alert for God's voice - but for now, what does this *unprepared* encounter tell us about God's desire to speak?

What is the first thing God says to Moses (4)? What is the significance of being called by name for members of the group?

Moses turned aside to listen (v3) and it seems that his doing so enabled God to speak further (v4). What does this suggest about our part in hearing God's voice?

God's determination to act (v7-8) requires Moses' participation (10). God's normal way of working is in partnership with his children (see e.g Psalm 77:20). What is the connection suggested here between God speaking TO us and God working THROUGH us?

What if Moses HADN'T turned aside? Hypothetical certainly, but it does open up the question of what we might miss by not paying attention to the The Voice. What do people think? (Or does the story of Jonah suggest that God will keep speaking until we pay attention!?)

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**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**

What is the link between loving someone and listening for their voice?

**Love for one another**

How might hearing God speak, enhance our ability to love one another?

**Love for neighbour & world**

Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush was to send him on a seemingly impossible task. What might this tell us about discerning God's voice?

**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?