



Sermon Discussion Questions

06-08-2025

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Series: One Book

Week 2: Bible 201 - How to Hear God's Voice in the Word of God

1. ICE BREAKER: This series is "One Book" because the hope is that we all found our lives on the Bible. However, if you could have one other book in addition to the Bible, what would it be? Is there another book that has been influential on your life?
2. Read our scripture for this week, Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Reading this verse again, what stands out to you today? How have you seen this to be true in your own life?

3. We talked about today that often in our culture we have a problem with the Bible. Many of us don't read it, haven't read through the entire Bible, aren't comfortable with the Bible, or take issue with the Bible. Yet, we claim to base our lives and our belief system on the Bible.

React to this idea. Are any of these true for you? Why or why not? Share honestly with your group about where you are in your opinions of and relationship with the Bible.

4. Last week, we talked about how the Bible is reliable, trustworthy, and authoritative. If we consider the Bible to be authoritative, then that means it needs to have authority in our own lives. In other words, we are not the ones in charge.

Do you feel that the Bible is authoritative in your own life? Why or why not? If not, what makes it difficult to follow? Do you have an example of a way that Scripture changed something in your life? If so, please share.

5. In order to make Scripture a habit in your life, you need a place, a plan, and a Bible you can understand.

Share about these elements in your own life. Do you have a certain place where you read Scripture, pray, or sit in quiet? Describe that place. Do you have a Bible you can understand? Have you used a reading plan before?

6. For the remainder of your time together as a group, walk through the SOAP method. Spend the bulk of your time here!

First, select scripture. As a group, read Luke 1:3-4, *"With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."* (If you'd like to read all of Luke 1, you can do that too!) Think about which word(s) or phrases stick out to you as important. Share those words with your group.

Next, do some observation. As a group, share what you know about the Gospel of Luke, or think about the answers to the "5 Ws" - who, what, when, where, why. Talk about what is happening in and around the verse. You may wish to watch the Bible Project's "Luke Overview" video.

Then, it's time for application. This is when you get quiet and ask, "Lord, how do you want to apply this to my life?" As thoughts come to your mind, write them down. Share with your group what you feel may be an important truth for you.

Finally, close with a prayer. This is a time to ask God to apply to your life what you found in application, ask for His help, and move forward with what God has spoken to you in His word today.

7. PRACTICE: For this week's practice time with your group, pray and ask God what your next step is regarding hearing His voice in His word. Put on some prayerful music (we recommend Soaking in His Presence).

Make an "appointment" with God for one time that you will SOAP journal this week, if it is not currently a habit that you have.

Share this "appointment" with your group and ask them to hold you accountable over the next week.