



Recognize Through Relationship

Focus We learn to recognize God's voice by prioritizing and pursuing a personal relationship with Him.

Open If you could visit any place in North America in autumn, where would you go?

Read In the Garden of Eden, God personally spoke with Adam and Eve daily. Immediately after they sinned, Adam became afraid of hearing God's voice and interacting with Him. God was deeply grieved by this change in their relationship. But when Jesus died on the cross, He restored all that was lost in Eden, including our ability to personally talk with and hear God.

Like a spouse, we learn to recognize God's voice by being with Him and talking with Him often. Like Adam, God never intended for us to live by deciding what was good and evil or right and wrong (by our conscience). We were created to hear and respond to the voice of God. When God is our highest priority, pursuit and passion, we *will* recognize His voice.

- Talk**
1. Do you think of interacting with God as something you're "supposed to do" or as something God *wants* to do with you? Why? How does each attitude affect how likely someone will pursue Him?
 2. In Genesis 3:8–10, the Devil cast doubt about what God had said and then led Adam and Eve into sin. In what situation(s) has the Enemy tried to cast doubt on God's voice in your life? What is the Enemy's purpose?

3. Read Hebrews 9:14 and John 16:7–11.
 - a. What happens to our conscience when we receive salvation?
 - b. What are “dead works”? Why do they not lead to life?
 - c. If we are not to live by our conscience (the knowledge of good and evil), what does God intend for us to live by after we are saved?

Live

1. In Genesis 3:8–10, Adam and Eve hid from God when they heard His voice. In Luke 10:38–42, Martha was “distracted” and “worried and troubled about many things” and didn’t sit and listen to Jesus as Mary did.
 - a. What might make someone want to “hide from” hearing God’s voice?
 - b. What kinds of things tend to make you “worried and troubled”? Have they drawn you away from spending time with God?
 - c. To whom do you most closely relate: Adam, Eve, Martha or Mary? Why?
2. What are three things that the Lord has spoken to you or three ideas/points that have “hit home” through this series? Write them down on a piece of paper.
3. Write a note to God in your own words, expressing how you feel about being with Him and hearing His voice. Ask Him to respond, and write down what comes to your mind.

Pray

Pray for one another, asking God to draw each of you closer to Him and help you to hear His voice.