

## LEARNING HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD

This is the question everyone is asking – how can I hear from God and be sure it's Him? How do I live well and make good choices if I'm not sure what He wants me to do?



1. Welcome and introduction
2. God speaks to us in many different ways
3. What does the Bible have to say about all this?
4. In my experience - brief testimonies
5. What do you make of all this?
6. Ask the Panel - open discussion session
7. Give it a go – try The 5p Exercise
8. Close with prayer

### God speaks to us in many different ways

Primarily through the Bible; also through answered prayers; other people; visions, impressions, dreams, Holy Spirit; circumstances, situations, events; audible voice?



## **Biblical examples of ways in which God speaks**

**Vision** - Unremarkable vision: using everyday things to bring understanding (Jeremiah 1: 11-12); Supernatural Vision: Cornelius saw an Angel in a vision (Acts 10).

**Dreams** - God spoke to Pharaoh in a dream that only Joseph could interpret (Numbers 12: 6); Daniel interpreted dreams for Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1: 17); Joseph had dreams about Mary going to Egypt. The wise men had a dream about Herod.

**Still Small Voice** - Being quiet can be important. Distinguish between a place of quietness and being quiet within ourselves (1 Kings 19: 11-13).

**Audible Voice** - Can be very ordinary (not spooky or religious). It sounded like Eli to Samuel! (1 Samuel: 3).

**Scripture** - The Holy Spirit can quicken a particular passage or verse which can become the 'now' word of God (*Rhema*) for a particular situation.

**Impressions** - Inner conviction. Physical or emotional impression. Impressed to pray a certain way.

**Seeing Words** - One word leading to a Revelation. As you wait, God clarifies and opens something up.

**Everyday Objects** - The Holy Spirit can use everyday objects to speak to us.

**Sentence** - A sentence or phrase may stick in the mind.

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## **The 5p Exercise**

**PAUSE** – stop, relax, be still, let go of what you have been doing today, leave room for God to speak to you.

**PRESENCE** - the reason for creating this space is not for knowledge, or peace, but for God himself who comes to you. Seek to rest in him and to be open to him; let him refresh you.

**PICTURE** – what the fact of God's presence means for you. Perhaps use a verse or passage from Scripture to help you see God at work.

**PONDER** – think what the passage is seeking to say to you. The message will not always be comfortable; it may well challenge you.

**PROMISE** – to turn towards the living God each day, and offer yourself to him as he gives himself to you.

Source: David Adam (2015) *The Awesome Journey. Life's pilgrimage*. London: SPCK