

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

*TUNING IN
TO THE GOD WHO SPEAKS*

STUDY GUIDE

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CONTENTS

Lesson 1: My Sheep Hear My Voice	6
Lesson 2: Awakened Hearts	10
Lesson 3: God, Is That Really You?	14
Lesson 4: Was That Just My Imagination?	18
Lesson 5: The Meeting Place	22
Lesson 6: Meeting God to Intercede and Overcoming Blocks to Meeting God	26
Lesson 7: Listening Prayer in Decision Times	30
Lesson 8: Listening Prayer With Children and in the Local Church	34
Lesson 9: Listening Prayer and Outreach, Mercy, and Justice	36
Lesson 10: Listening Prayer and Inner Healing	40

LESSON 1
MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

I. Does God Speak?

A. Read John 10:2–5,14–15.

1. What do you learn about Jesus in these passages?

2. What do you learn about the sheep?

3. Based on this passage, who can hear Jesus' voice?

B. Read Psalm 139:17–18; John 16:12–15.

1. How often does God speak?

2. Why do we often have difficulty hearing him?

3. What does God speak about?

4. When was the first time you remember God speaking to you? When did he speak to you most recently?

C. Read Deuteronomy 4:7 and Jeremiah 33:3.

1. What does God promise to do when you call on him?

II. How We Hear and See God (Part 1)

A. Salvation

1. How does God speak during the process of salvation?
2. When and how did God first call you? How many times did God have to invite you before you responded?
3. Have you ever played a role in calling someone else to salvation? If so, describe what happened.

B. Scripture

1. How does God speak through Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17)?
2. What are some benefits to following God's Word (Psalm 119)?
3. Which Bible verse(s) has God used to speak to you recently?

C. Preachers/Speakers

1. How does God speak through preachers or speakers?
2. When was the last time God used a preacher's message to speak into your life? What did he say?

D. Worship

1. How does God speak to us through worship?
2. Describe a time when God spoke to you during worship recently.

E. Intercession

1. How does God speak to us through intercession?
2. How can we know whom to pray for during intercession?
3. Describe a time when you felt a strong burden to pray for someone. What was the result?

F. Conviction of Right and Wrong

1. What's the difference between conviction and guilt (John 16:8–11)?
2. What has God convicted you of lately?
3. What has God affirmed in you lately?

G. Prompting for Action

1. Has God ever prompted you to share with someone? Describe the experience.

Tuning In...

1. Spend a few minutes each day having a conversation with God. Make sure you listen as well as talk.
2. Ask God to highlight a verse that will nourish your soul this week. Meditate on it all week.
3. Sing or listen to your favorite worship song and be open for God to speak to you through it.
4. Ask God to bring someone to your mind to pray for while you are waiting at the grocers, lying in bed, or sitting at a stoplight.
5. Ask God if you have grieved his heart in any way this week. Confess your sin and accept his forgiveness.
6. Ask God to show you how you pleased him this week. Thank him for making it possible.
7. Ask God to help you encourage someone this week with a specific word from the Lord.

LESSON 2

AWAKENED HEARTS

I. How We Hear and See God (Part 2)

A. God's Word

1. What is the primary way we hear God's voice?
Why?

2. Our ability to hear God's voice directly and accurately depends on what?

3. How can we ensure our study of Scripture enables us to hear God?

4. Name a particular verse, passage, book, character, symbol or event in the Bible that God has used to speak to you.

B. Messengers

1. Look at the types of messengers listed on pages 40–41 and note the types of messengers God has used to speak to you. Describe one such experience.

2. At what point can we begin to establish that God has indeed spoken to us through these messengers (Deuteronomy 19:15)?

C. Life Circumstances

1. What are three types of life circumstances through which God speaks?
2. What is a divine appointment?
3. Have you ever had a divine appointment? Describe what happened.

D. Symbols

1. What is a symbol, as defined by this book (p. 44)?
2. Why does God use symbols to speak to us?
3. What are your first reactions to the symbols listed on p. 45?
4. What are some of the primary symbols God has used to speak to you?

E. Parables

1. What are parables?
2. Why does God use parables to speak to us?
3. Describe a parable event from your life. What were the main symbols God used to speak to you during this event? What spiritual truth was highlighted by each event or image?

F. Direct Messages

1. What are three ways God delivers direct messages to our hearts (p. 49)?
2. What are two reasons why we often dismiss God's voice?
3. How can we learn to recognize God's voice?
4. Describe a time when you thought you heard God's voice. What did he say? How did you respond?

5. Has anyone ever seen God directly? Why or why not? How do reflections provide an analogy for how we can “see” God?

6. According to Christian mystics, what three sets of “eyes” does everyone possess (p., 54)? Which set of eyes do we most often use to “see” God?

7. How does “seeing” God differ from New Age practices like guided imagery?

8. Have you ever seen God with the eyes of your heart? How did he appear to you? What did he communicate to you through this vision?

Tuning In...

1. Choose two “friendship questions” from p. 63 and pose them to God. How does he respond?

2. Follow the instructions on p. 64 and write an encouragement letter to the person God places on your heart.

LESSON 3
GOD, IS THAT REALLY YOU?

A. Testing the Voice of God

1. Why is testing the voices we hear so important?

2. What other voices might we hear besides God's voice? Describe each one.

3. Fill in the blank (p. 70): "Clarity of hearing is directly proportional to _____."

4. List four promises in Scripture that God will speak to us.

5. What are two forms of inner static we might encounter when listening to God? How can we overcome this static to hear God's voice clearly?

B. The Posture of a Listener

1. Describe three elements of a proper listening posture.

2. What are some “busy bees” that often disrupt your time with God? How can you “send them back to their hive?”

3. Fill in the blank: “The heart that knows God intimately is (p. 74): _____

C. Testing the Source

1. Is God offended when we seek to verify the voices we hear? Why or why not?

2. What are some questions we can ask to verify whether or not a voice is from God (p. 77)?

3. Fill in the blanks: _____ + _____ + _____ = Abiding.

4. Regarding content, what is the first question we should ask about an alleged word from God?

5. Define “the true Body of Christ” (p. 83). Why is it important to confirm words with the Body?

6. How does the inner witness of the Holy Spirit relate to the other two legs of the “abiding stool”? What are the two signs that we’re on the right track in this regard?

7. How do thoughts and emotions work together when it comes to the inner witness of the Holy Spirit?

8. What does it mean to abide? Why is abiding so important?

D. Testing the Fruit

1. What does it mean to test the fruit of a word?

2. What are two main questions we can ask to test the fruit of a given word?

Tuning In...

1. Recall something you think God told you lately. How does that word measure up to the tests in this chapter? Take some time this week to work this out.

2. Picture Jesus greeting you at the gates of heaven and then ask him the following:
 - When we finally meet face-to-face, how will you greet me?
 - What is the first thing you will say to me?

Write down his answers.

LESSON 4
WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

A. No Such Thing As a Bad Question?

1. Why is the question, “Was that just my imagination?” such a conversation-killer with God?
2. List five possible responses we can give to a word from God.
3. Does anyone ever receive “pure revelation” from God? Why or why not? How does your personality affect how a word is heard and/or expressed?

B. The Imagination Screen

1. Match the following elements of your being with the role they play in the listening process:

The imagination	The films that compete to fill the soul with thoughts and images
The soul	The projectionist who chooses what will be showing
The flesh and spirit	A screen upon which the mind projects and ponders images
The will	A projector that loads and sends images to the screen

2. What is “the better question” when it comes to testing a word from God?

C. Using Your Imagination: For Flesh or Spirit?

1. What three things can your heart do with the imagination?
2. What’s the difference between “active” and “passive” imagination?
3. List four types of active imagination.
4. What’s one way we can abuse our active imagination?
5. What are three functions of passive imagination?
6. What’s the difference between picturing Jesus and beholding him?

7. What are two ways of receiving messages through passive imagination? Have you ever received a message in either or both of these ways? Describe the experience.

8. What are two types of fleshly windows? What are the dangers of looking through them?

9. How does “interactive” imagination differ from active or passive imagination?

10. Have you ever passed through a spiritual doorway? Describe what the experience was like.

Tuning In...

1. Do the “Tuning In” exercise on p. 105 this week. Record what happens and, if appropriate, share the experience with the person for whom you prayed.

2. If you could step through a spiritual doorway this week, where would you like to go? Ask Jesus to take you there. When you’re there, ask Jesus what he would like you to do.

3. Have you ever been curious about the spiritual reality that exists around you? Ask Jesus to reveal it to you this week. Then ask him how you can influence it for his purposes.

6. Have you ever met Jesus in a memory? If so, describe the experience. If not, try stepping into a memory right now—either a positive or a negative memory. Locate Jesus there. What is he doing? What is he saying? Draw close to him and tell him how you felt at that time. How does he respond?

7. Have you ever met with Jesus in a vision or a dream? Describe the experience. If you haven't experienced this, do you know someone who has? Describe what happened.

8. How can God function as a meeting place?

B. A Meeting

1. What is the primary purpose of spiritual sight?

2. What are the effects of beholding Jesus' face?

3. When is the power of Jesus' gaze released most effectively into our lives?

4. What are the main effects of being held by Jesus?

Tuning In...

1. Recall some places where biblical characters met with God. Choose one location and try to remember as many details about it as possible. What happened there? How did God appear? What reaction did he provoke? Now “step in” to that place. Can you see the Lord there? What is he doing? What is he saying?

2. Ask God to lead you into the meeting place of your heart. If your heart is his home, temple or castle, what does it look like? Find Jesus there and ask him to give you a guided tour.

3. Ask God to remind you of a vivid dream you’ve had—either pleasant or frightful. Step back into the dream and find Jesus there. Ask Jesus what the dream means. Ask him how he would like you to resolve the dream and then watch what he does.

4. Ask Jesus what is his favorite place to meet with you.
Then go and meet him there.

II. Overcoming Blocks to Meeting God

A. Removing Blocks

1. Can God ever be blocked? Why or why not?
2. What is the essential ingredient to overcoming blocks to meeting God? What are three basic steps to overcoming blocks?
3. Does God ever intentionally lead us to blocks? Why or why not?

B. Facing the Most Common Blocks

1. What causes mental blocks to arise? How can they be removed?
2. Name four different types of fear blocks. How can they be removed?
3. What causes shame blocks? How can they be removed?

4. Name five kinds of sin and pain blocks. How can they be removed?

5. What causes confusion blocks? How can they be removed?

6. What is a “demonic, false Christ”? How can we overcome such things?

7. What is a “fleshly, false Christ”? How do they differ from demonic, false Christs? How can they be overcome?

C. The Silence of God

1. Is God’s silence a good or a bad thing? Why?

2. How does the silence of God differ from the blocks mentioned above?

3. Is it possible to “snap out of” the dark night of the soul? Why or why not?

Tuning In...

1. Are you carrying a burden for someone else? Take some time this week to walk through the burden bearing process:
 - Ask Jesus what the burden is about
 - Ask Jesus how he feels about it
 - Ask Jesus to let his heart be comforted
 - Wait for his peace to come

2. Picture Jesus in front of you. Ask him to reveal whether or not there are any obstacles between him and you. If Jesus shows you something:
 - Ask him what it is
 - Ask him where it came from
 - Ask him how to remove it

If you don't see anything, don't make something up. Just enjoy his presence.

LESSON 7
LISTENING PRAYER IN DECISION TIMES

A. Friends of God who live by faith...

1. Before you read this chapter, what model of discernment were you following? How has it worked for you?

2. What is the primary function of listening prayer?

3. Have you ever been guilty of using God as a “psychic hotline” or “911 operator”? Describe one such experience.

4. How does risk factor in to the discernment process?

B. and consult the Lord...

1. Fill in the blanks (p. 180): “The friend of God who lives by faith is led mainly by the _____.”

2. What’s the difference between the path of greatest peace and the path of least resistance? Can they ever be one and the same?

C. are led by the Spirit...

1. Does submitting to God's will always mean not exercising your own will? Why or why not?
2. What is the proper role of signs in the discernment process? Is it ever right to ask God for a sign? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever asked God for a sign to help you make a significant decision? Describe the experience.

D. into God's purposes.

1. How does finding purpose relate to the discernment process?
2. Will God ever allow you to have something even if it isn't good for you? Why or why not? Has this ever happened to you? Describe the experience.

3. How can you tell the difference between God closing a door and Satan's opposition or life's obstacles?

Tuning In...

1. Spend time cultivating your friendship with God this week.
2. If you are you facing an important decision this week, put the discernment outline discussed in this chapter into practice and record of what happens.

LESSON 8
**LISTENING PRAYER WITH CHILDREN
AND IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

I. Listening Prayer with Children

1. Who is most responsible for leading children into an intimate relationship with God? How can the church facilitate this process?
2. What is the most common block to a child's ability to hear God?
3. How can we turn bedtime prayers with our children into conversations with God?
4. What are four types of places where we can teach our children to meet with God?

Tuning In...

1. If you have children or if you interact with them this week, invite them to do one of the listening prayer exercises mentioned in this chapter. Record the results.

II. Listening Prayer and the Local Church

1. What's the difference between "fruit-focused" and "vine-focused" visions?
2. How do values factor into process of casting a vision?
3. Has your church articulated a vision statement? What is it? Judging from what you've read in this chapter, is this vision fruit-focused or vine-focused? If fruit-focused, how might it be altered to become vine-focused?
4. What are the pillars of your church? Are they people, leaders, target groups, values or a combination of the above?
5. What role do the disabled play in your church? How about children, prodigals or the poor? How might you create more opportunities for these groups to get involved in your church?

6. What are the hallmarks of a healthy relationship between pastors and prophets?
7. Have you ever received a prophetic word for your church? What was it? Did you go on to share it with your pastor, leadership team or the church as a whole? Describe the experience.

Tuning In...

1. Ask God to give you a message of encouragement for your church this week. When you feel like God has spoken, share the word with your pastor or church leadership team. If they feel it is appropriate, share the word with the entire church.

LESSON 9
**LISTENING PRAYER AND OUTREACH,
MERCY, AND JUSTICE**

I. Listening Prayer and Outreach

1. When was the last time you told someone about Jesus? Describe the experience. Was it positive or negative? Why?

2. Why do many people balk at the idea of doing evangelism?

3. Describe the three types of people seeking to meet Jesus. Do you know someone in each category? Have you ever tried sharing Jesus with these people? If so, what was the result?

4. Can unbelievers hear or see Jesus? Why or why not?

5. How might you lead someone to a meeting place with the Lord?

II. Listening Prayer, Mercy, and Justice

1. What's the difference between mercy and justice?
2. Define peace in terms of *shalom*. What are the four levels of peace?
3. How do prophetic critiques of individuals or society differ from mere cynicism?
4. Why might God be hesitant to share his grief about the misery and injustice he sees in the world? How can we help him to feel more comfortable about sharing such things?
5. What passage of Scripture should serve as the litmus test for prophetic purity?
6. Describe the two stages of prophetic respiration. Why is it so important to practice both?

LESSON 10
LISTENING PRAYER AND INNER HEALING

I. Comfort

1. Have you ever participated in prayer ministry? What was that experience like?

2. What's the purpose of meeting Jesus in a place of refuge?

3. What are four tasks to be performed as we follow Jesus into the Root Wound?

4. What happens when we meet Jesus at the cross?

5. Why is "Do you want to be free?" such an important question to ask prior to doing prayer ministry? Have you ever done prayer ministry with someone whom you suspect did not really want to be free? Describe the experience.

6. What's the difference between comfort and healing?

7. What is a Root Wound? What are five symptoms of a Root Wound?

8. What is the role of prayer ministry in relation to other forms of therapy, such as psychiatry or regular counseling?

9. List some examples of atypical memories?

10. Why might God give someone a symbolic memory?

II. Healing

1. Why is confession so important when dealing with a Root Wound?

2. What's the difference between a wound and a scar?
How might scars serve us rather than hinder us?

3. What are "truth-based burdens"? How do they differ from lie-based pain?

4. What is the main cause of non-medical depression?
How can it be overcome?

III. Freedom

1. What does true forgiveness look like? Why is forgiveness so important to the healing process?

2. What is reactive sin? How can it be overcome?

3. How do unholy habit patterns spring up from a Root Wound? How can they be dealt with through the healing process?

4. In a deliverance situation, why is it better to address Jesus rather than demons?

Tuning In...

1. Practice finding Jesus in a memory this week.
 - Ask Jesus to remind you of a pleasant memory
 - Ask him to help you find him in it.

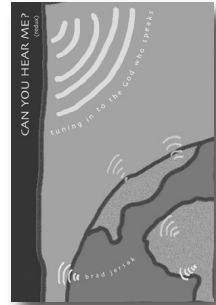
2. Practice removing a simple, truth-based burden.
 - Ask Jesus to remind you of a time when you felt disappointed or defeated.
 - Ask him how to deal with that disappointment.

3. Practice removing a simple, lie-based pain.
 - Ask Jesus to remind you of a time when you were anxious.
 - Ask Jesus where he was in that memory.
 - Tell Jesus everything you were feeling.
 - Ask him to reveal the truth that will set you free from the pain of that memory.

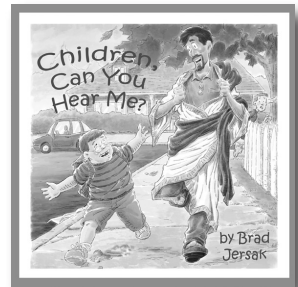
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Can You Hear Me? Is a compelling combination of biblical and historical research, real life experiences, and inspiring exercises on listening prayer. God desires to transform your prayer times into intimate conversations, real meetings with a living friend. Through this book, you will become aware that encountering God is more simple and interactive than you ever dreamed. ISBN 0-9733586-0-2



Children Can You Hear Me? God longs to open the eyes and ears of faith in every boy and girl—even the child in you. This hardcover children's storybook features full color illustrations by Ken Save and a chapter from *Can You Hear Me?* that teaches parents how to nurture children to embrace a lifestyle of listening prayer. ISBN 0-9733586-1-0



Coming Soon:
Rivers from Eden: 40 Days of Intimate Conversation with God If *Can You Hear Me?* primed your heart for listening prayer, this forty-day spiritual exercise will make it a life-style. Walk with Brad and Eden as you present God with forty life-changing questions and receive his answers. These encounters will take you to new depths of hearing and seeing God.

