

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Want to Know God

### 3. HEAR GOD'S VOICE

YWAM is committed to creating with God through listening to Him, praying His prayers and obeying His commands in matters great and small. We are dependent upon hearing His voice as individuals, together in team contexts and in larger gatherings, as an integral part of our process for decision-making.

[1Sa 3:7-10](#); [2Ch 15:2-4](#); [Psa 25:14](#); [Isa 6:8](#); [Amo 3:7](#); [Luk 9:35](#);  
[Joh 10:1-5](#); [Joh 16:13-15](#); [Heb 3:7-8,15](#); [Rev 2:7,11,17,27](#); [3:6,13,22](#)

### Value #3 – Hear God's Voice: God is Speaking

#### Biblical Foundation:

*Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening'" So Samuel went back to bed. And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening" (1Sa 3:7-10).*

#### Discovery Starter:

Radio waves fill the air. Music to suit every ear; sporting events, news, talk shows, public announcements. They are all around us, but we do not hear them unless we get a radio. Still we hear nothing. So we plug it in to an outlet. Still we hear nothing. So we make sure it's turned on. Still we hear nothing. So we check the volume. Still we hear nothing. So we dial our favorite station. Now we hear clearly. The radio waves were there all the time, but we couldn't hear because our radios weren't tuned in. God is speaking. Are we tuned in?

This story of Samuel begins with a tragic commentary about that moment in history. We are told, "The word of the LORD was rare in those days" (1Sa 3:1 NRSV). The problem was not a lack of communication on God's part, but a shortage of listening on the part of his people. Of all the things the Bible tells us about God, his capacity to communicate

is the action most frequently mentioned! In the Original Testament, we are told that God speaks (Hebrew *'amar*) over 1400 times. In the New Testament, God is said to speak (Greek *lego*) over 500 times. These – and many other words – are used to describe God's great communication skills. He answers, asks, assures, calls, commands, declares, directs, explains, instructs, mentions, orders, promises, replies, responds, reveals, says, speaks, swears, tells, warns, etc. All told, God's great ability to communicate is mentioned nearly 3000 times in the Bible!

No one communicates more abundantly than God. But are we listening? Are our radios tuned in? Do we need to posture ourselves, like Samuel, to hear with a servant's heart? God declares, "Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea" (Isa 48:18). Again God shares his heart, "Oh, that my people would listen to me! ... How quickly I would then subdue their enemies! ... I would feed you with the finest wheat. I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock" (Psa 81:13-16).

### **Keep Going:**

Read Psalm 81:8-16 several times. Take your time to savor it and reflect on it slowly. Listen with your heart. What stands out to you? Note what it says about listening. What is the result of paying attention to God? What are the consequences when we fail to heed him? What is God wanting to do for his people when they listen to him? Ask God to help you cultivate a listening heart, like Samuel's, to hear and obey the word of the Lord.

© 2020 David Joel Hamilton: "YWAM Beliefs & Values Discovery Starters." Used by permission.