



Christmas at The Cove 2015

Part 1 – Hearing from God Study Guide

It's almost time for Christmas, and the season can be crazy! In all of the busyness, it can be difficult to slow down and take direction from God when our schedules seem to dictate our direction. As we look at the events of the first Christmas, we see many people who heard from God very directly, but in different ways. In this study, we will talk about how we hear from God and how to listen more carefully.

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
Matthew 2:2 (ESV)

1. **Read Matthew 2:1-3.** To hear from God, we have to be listening.

- Have you ever had a time when you felt like you were really trying to seek God? Why and what happened?
- Discuss the difference between the Wise Men and Herod in this passage. Why is it significant?
- If you need to hear from God, what are some things you can do to seek Him? **Read Matthew 7:7-8.** What does Jesus promise us?

2. **Read Luke 1:46-49.** For God to speak to us, we must take a humble position.

- Have you ever arrogantly or selfishly asked God to speak to you? Why? What happened?
- Do you think humility was a factor in God choosing Mary and Joseph to be the parents of Jesus? Why or why not?
- What does it look like to take a humble position with God when we are trying to hear from Him? What do you need to do and what difference will it make?

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” Luke 22:42 (ESV)

3. **Read John 10:27 and Luke 22:41-43.** If we want to hear from God, we have to be willing to obey Him.
 - Have you ever heard from God, but chose not to do what He told you to do? What happened?
 - Who are some of the people from the Christmas story who were obedient?
 - Why is it so hard sometimes to actually do what God directs us to do? What are some things we can do to help us act?

4. As you close, pray with one another specifically for direction from God in the areas in life you most need it. Pray that God would humble you and prepare you to follow through.