

Surprise the World

MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 4 – LISTEN: THE THIRD HABIT

¹God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

– Psalm 46 (NIV)

KEYS TO LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S VOICE

- Seek _____ from the _____

⁷For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

– 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

- Look beyond your _____
- Focus your _____ upon God’s _____

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

– Mark 4:35-40 (NIV)

- Be _____ by the truth of God's _____

⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

– Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Why do so many of us struggle to simply listen?
2. In a world with so much turmoil, division, and chaos, why is it significant that God is our refuge and strength?
3. What are some of the voices that lead us to fear?
4. How can 2 Timothy 1:7 help us discern the Spirit's voice?
5. How can the situations of life we are facing prevent us from noticing God's presence and work in our lives?
6. What does it mean to "be still and know that [he] is God?"
7. How can a focus upon who God is change your perspective?
8. What do Psalm 46 and Mark 4:35-41 communicate about God's power?
9. How can these truths become transformative in our lives?
10. What are some strategies you can put into practice this week to begin listening for and discerning the voice of the Spirit?
11. What distractions do you need to set aside in order to listen for the Spirit's voice?
12. What is an achievable goal you can set this week for spending quality time listening for the Spirit's voice?