



Bible Study Reference Sheet: Discerning the Voice of God
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“If you are going to live an ascended life, it will require education on how to hear God confidently, effectively, and accurately. Actively listening to God is not only a matter of hearing his words but a deliberate effort to suspend our need for attention and submit our attention to God.”

-Pastor James Tyson

Overview and Purpose

Listening to the voice of God is a fundamental aspect of a believer's life, offering guidance, correction, and comfort. This study aims to explore the lives of 20 biblical figures, examining how they listened or failed to listen to God's voice and to provide practical ways to enhance our listening skills. Additionally, this guide includes five ways to improve your listening to God, based on the example of Noah, which emphasizes care, respect, and value for your relationship with Him.

Biblical Examples: Listening to the Voice of God

1. Noah

- **Scripture:** Genesis 6:9-22
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Corruption of the world before the flood.
 - **God's Command:** Build an ark to save humanity and animals.
 - **Noah's Response:** Obeyed God's detailed instructions without question.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on your obedience to God's instructions. Are there areas where you struggle to follow through?

2. Abraham

- **Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-4
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** God's call to leave his homeland.
 - **God's Command:** Go to a land God would show him.
 - **Abraham's Response:** He left his country and followed God's direction.



- **Home Activity:** Consider when you had to step out in faith. How did you handle it?

3. Moses

- **Scripture:** Exodus 3:1-10
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Moses at the burning bush.
 - **God's Command:** Lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
 - **Moses' Response:** Initially hesitant but eventually obeyed.
- **Home Activity:** Identify areas where fear holds you back from obeying God.

4. Samuel

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** God's call to Samuel as a child.
 - **God's Command:** Deliver a message to Eli.
 - **Samuel's Response:** Listened and delivered the message faithfully.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on how you respond to God's voice daily. Are you listening attentively?

5. David

- **Scripture:** 2 Samuel 5:17-25
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** David seeks God's guidance in battle.
 - **God's Command:** Specific strategies for defeating the Philistines.
 - **David's Response:** Followed God's instructions precisely.
- **Home Activity:** Think about decisions you have made recently. Did you seek God's guidance?

6. Elijah

- **Scripture:** 1 Kings 19:9-18
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Elijah at Mount Horeb.
 - **God's Command:** Anoint new leaders and continue his prophetic mission.



- **Elijah's Response:** Followed God's new directions.
- **Home Activity:** Contemplate how you handle transitions in life. Do you seek God's voice during these times?

7. Isaiah

- **Scripture:** Isaiah 6:1-8
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Isaiah's vision of God's throne.
 - **God's Command:** Go and speak to the people.
 - **Isaiah's Response:** Willingly accepted the call.
- **Home Activity:** Are you open to new directions from God? Reflect on your willingness to serve.

8. Jeremiah

- **Scripture:** Jeremiah 1:4-10
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** God's call to Jeremiah.
 - **God's Command:** Prophecy to the nations.
 - **Jeremiah's Response:** Initially resisted but ultimately obeyed.
- **Home Activity:** Think about a time you felt inadequate for a task. How did you rely on God's strength?

9. Mary

- **Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** The angel Gabriel's announcement.
 - **God's Command:** Accept her role as the mother of Jesus.
 - **Mary's Response:** Humbly accepted God's plan.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on your response to unexpected changes. Are you trusting in God's plan?

10. Peter

- **Scripture:** Acts 10:9-20
- **Study Points:**



- **Context:** Peter's vision of unclean animals.
- **God's Command:** Go to Cornelius' house.
- **Peter's Response:** Initially confused but obeyed.
- **Home Activity:** Consider how you handle situations that challenge your preconceptions. Do you seek God's guidance?

11. Paul

- **Scripture:** Acts 9:1-19
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.
 - **God's Command:** Preach to the Gentiles.
 - **Paul's Response:** He transformed his life and followed God's call.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on your own conversion experience. How has it shaped your obedience to God?

12. Jonah

- **Scripture:** Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-3
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** God's call to go to Nineveh.
 - **God's Command:** Preach against the city's wickedness.
 - **Jonah's Response:** Initially ran away, then obeyed.
- **Home Activity:** Identify areas you might be running from God's call. How can you turn back and obey?

13. Gideon

- **Scripture:** Judges 6:11-24
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Israel's oppression by the Midianites.
 - **God's Command:** Deliver Israel from Midian.
 - **Gideon's Response:** He asked for signs but ultimately obeyed.
- **Home Activity:** Think about times you have asked God for confirmation. How did you respond when He answered?



14. Samuel

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Anointing of David as king.
 - **God's Command:** Go to Jesse's house and anoint one of his sons.
 - **Samuel's Response:** Obeyed despite his initial hesitation.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on how you handle God's instructions that challenge your expectations.

15. Solomon

- **Scripture:** 1 Kings 3:5-14
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Solomon's dream at Gibeon.
 - **God's Command:** Ask for what he wants.
 - **Solomon's Response:** He asked for wisdom to govern Israel.
- **Home Activity:** Consider what you ask of God in prayer. Are your requests aligned with His will?

16. Job

- **Scripture:** Job 38:1-7, 42:1-6
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Job's suffering and questioning.
 - **God's Command:** Trust in His wisdom and sovereignty.
 - **Job's Response:** Repented and acknowledged God's greatness.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on how you respond to suffering and unanswered questions. Do you trust in God's greater plan?

17. Ananias (Disciple in Damascus)

- **Scripture:** Acts 9:10-19
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** God's call to help Paul.
 - **God's Command:** Go to Paul and restore his sight.
 - **Ananias' Response:** Obeyed despite his fears.



- **Home Activity:** Reflect on times you have been called to help someone with difficulty. How did you respond?

18. Ananias and Sapphira

- **Scripture:** Acts 5:1-11
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** The early Christian community's sharing of possessions.
 - **God's Command:** Be honest and transparent.
 - **Their Response:** They lied about the proceeds from selling their property.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on the importance of honesty in your life. Commit to integrity in all your dealings.

19. Judas Iscariot

- **Scripture:** Matthew 26:14-16
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Judas' role as a disciple.
 - **God's Command:** Follow Jesus faithfully.
 - **Judas' Response:** Betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on the areas where you might be compromising your faith. Pray for steadfastness.

20. King Ahab

- **Scripture:** 1 Kings 21:25-26
- **Study Points:**
 - **Context:** Ahab's reign was influenced by Jezebel.
 - **God's Command:** Turn away from idolatry and evil practices.
 - **Ahab's Response:** Continued in wickedness.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on the influences in your life. Pray for discernment and godly influences.



Ten Ways to Hear the Voice of God

1. Scripture Reading

- **Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **Description:** The Bible is God's written Word, providing instruction, correction, and training in righteousness.
- **Home Activity:** Commit to daily Bible reading, using a reading plan or devotionals to guide you.

2. Prayer

- **Scripture:** Philippians 4:6-7
- **Description:** Prayer is a direct line of communication with God, where we can express our needs and listen for His guidance.
- **Home Activity:** Set aside dedicated times for prayer, focusing on speaking and listening.

3. Worship

- **Scripture:** Psalm 100:2
- **Description:** Worship brings us into God's presence, opening our hearts to hear His voice.
- **Home Activity:** Integrate worship into your daily routine, whether through music, singing, or moments of adoration.

4. Meditation

- **Scripture:** Psalm 1:2
- **Description:** Meditating on God's Word helps us internalize His messages and apply them to our lives.
- **Home Activity:** Choose a verse or passage to meditate on daily, reflecting on its meaning and how it applies to your life.

5. Fellowship

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 10:24-25
- **Description:** God often speaks through fellow believers, offering encouragement, correction, and insight.
- **Home Activity:** Regularly fellowship with other believers, attending church services, small groups, or Bible studies.



6. Nature

- **Scripture:** Psalm 19:1-2
- **Description:** God's creation declares His glory and can be a source of inspiration and revelation.
- **Home Activity:** Spend time in nature, observing and reflecting on God's handiwork and listening for His voice.

7. Inner Conviction

- **Scripture:** John 16:13
- **Description:** The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, guiding us into all truth and convicting us of sin.
- **Home Activity:** Pay attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, journaling your experiences and responses.

8. Dreams and Visions

- **Scripture:** Acts 2:17
- **Description:** God sometimes communicates through dreams and visions, offering direction and revelation.
- **Home Activity:** Keep a dream journal, record significant dreams, and seek God's interpretation through prayer.

9. Prophetic Words

- **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 14:3
- **Description:** Prophecy edifies, exhorts, and comforts, delivering God's message through a human vessel.
- **Home Activity:** Be open to receiving prophetic words from trusted sources and testing them against Scripture.

10. Circumstances

- **Scripture:** Romans 8:28
- **Description:** God can use life events and circumstances to speak to us, guiding our steps and teaching us lessons.
- **Home Activity:** Reflect on your life circumstances, seek God's hand in your experiences, and learn from them.



Five Ways to Improve Your Listening to God: Lessons from Noah

1. Attentiveness with Minimal Interruption (Genesis 6:13)

- **Study Points:**
 - Noah gave God his undivided attention, prioritizing God's words above all else.
- **Practical Application:**
 - Set aside daily time for listening to God without interruptions.
 - Practice being present during this time.
- **Reflection:** Interruptions can be disrespectful. Prioritize God's voice without interruptions to show respect and value for your relationship with Him.

2. Focus on Understanding for Obedience, Not Clarity (Genesis 6:14-16)

- **Study Points:**
 - God gave Noah precise instructions without explaining why.
 - Noah's obedience did not rely on total clarity.
- **Practical Application:**
 - Prioritize prayer and surrender.
 - Engage in regular Bible study.
 - Seek godly counsel.
 - Practice active obedience.
 - Reflect on past faithfulness.
- **Reflection:** Trust in God's wisdom rather than relying solely on your understanding.

3. Determine the Need at the Moment (Genesis 7:1-5)

- **Study Points:**
 - Noah followed God's instructions step by step.
- **Practical Application:**
 - Ask God, "What do you need from me now?"
 - Break down God's instructions into manageable tasks.
- **Reflection:** Determine God's immediate needs and avoid becoming overwhelmed by trying to do everything simultaneously.

4. Check Your Emotions (Genesis 6-9)

- **Study Points:**
 - Noah's story shows a balance between emotional expression and obedience.



- **Practical Application:**
 - Monitor your emotional responses when listening to God.
 - Ensure your emotions do not cloud your obedience.
- **Reflection:** Emotions are not to be ignored but surrendered to God for a clearer understanding of His will.

5. Sum Up at Major Intervals (Genesis 6–9)

- **Study Points:**
 - Noah likely processed and understood each segment of God’s instructions before proceeding.
- **Practical Application:**
 - Summarize what you believe God is communicating to you at regular intervals.
 - Verify that you have understood His message correctly.
- **Reflection:** Active listening involves reflecting on and summarizing God’s guidance to stay attuned to His will.

People to Seek Counsel From When Discerning the Voice of God

1. **Spiritual Mentors**
 - **Scripture:** Proverbs 11:14
 - **Overview:** Seek guidance from those with spiritual maturity and wisdom.
2. **Pastors**
 - **Scripture:** Hebrews 13:17
 - **Overview:** Pastors are shepherds of the flock, offering spiritual oversight and counsel.
3. **Trusted Friends in Faith**
 - **Scripture:** Proverbs 27:17
 - **Overview:** Friends in faith can provide encouragement and accountability.
4. **Prophets**
 - **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 14:29
 - **Overview:** Prophets can provide insight and direction through God’s revelation.



5. Elders

- **Scripture:** James 5:14
- **Overview:** Elders offer prayer, support, and wisdom in spiritual matters.

6. Biblical Counselors

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 15:22
- **Overview:** Biblical counselors provide guidance based on Scripture.

7. Family Members in Faith

- **Scripture:** 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- **Overview:** Family members who share your faith can offer valuable insights and support.

8. Prayer Partners

- **Scripture:** Matthew 18:19-20
- **Overview:** Prayer partners join you in seeking God's will through prayer.

9. Ministry Leaders

- **Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11-12
- **Overview:** Ministry leaders provide spiritual direction and training.

10. Authors of Devotional Literature

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 4:7
- **Overview:** Reading works by respected Christian authors can offer guidance and perspective.

People to Avoid Submitting Your Attention When Discerning the Voice of God

1. False Prophets

- **Scripture:** Matthew 7:15
- **Overview:** Beware of those who claim to speak for God but lead you astray.

2. Scoffers

- **Scripture:** 2 Peter 3:3
- **Overview:** Avoid those who mock or undermine your faith.

3. Unbelievers

- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 6:14
- **Overview:** Their perspectives may conflict with godly discernment.

4. Those Living in Sin

- **Scripture:** Psalm 1:1
- **Overview:** Their advice may be influenced by ungodly lifestyles.



5. **Gossipers**

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 20:19
- **Overview:** They can spread misinformation and confuse.

6. **Divisive People**

- **Scripture:** Titus 3:10
- **Overview:** Those who cause division can disrupt your discernment process.

7. **Rebellious Individuals**

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 15:23
- **Overview:** Their rebellious nature can lead you away from God's voice.

8. **Self-Centered People**

- **Scripture:** Philippians 2:3-4
- **Overview:** Their advice may prioritize personal gain over godly wisdom.

9. **Those with Unchecked Anger**

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 22:24-25
- **Overview:** Their anger can distort their judgment and advice.

10. **Worldly Influencers**

- **Scripture:** Romans 12:2
- **Overview:** Their focus on worldly values can lead you away from spiritual truths.

By examining these biblical examples and incorporating practical ways to improve your listening, you can deepen your relationship with God and become more attuned to His voice daily.