

### **Big Idea**

**How to we recognize God's voice? (John 10:4,27)** God's method of speaking varies. Perhaps you've never heard the voice of God audibly. He'll use dreams, pastors, angels, circumstances, but one of the greatest way God speaks is through the Bible. When you can't hear God, read God. God's voice is always consistent with His word. He will never speak something that is contrary to the Bible. God most often speaks to those who are listening. The more you get to know Him personally, the easier it is to recognize His voice. To hear the voice of God, you have to turn down the world's volume.

### **Does God predestine some to be saved?**

- Calvinism says: God created everything, and He knows the decisions everyone is going to make. God elects (or predestines) certain people to go to Heaven or Hell. Romans 8:29
- Arminianism says: God knows the decision that you're ultimately going to make – He knows the beginning to the end. But even though He knows the decision you're going to make; He still gives you the right to be able to make your own decision about whether you accept Jesus as Lord. You get to choose. 2 Peter 3:9

### **Why do bad things happen to good people?**

Sometimes bad things happen because of our choices and it can be our fault (we didn't take care of our bodies, prepare financially, etc.) However, there are bad things that happen, that are completely out of our control. Remember, the world today is NOT God's original plan. God gave mankind the freedom to choose, and man chose to go the opposite direction of God. The Bible says we have all sinned. We are experiencing pain in the world, as a direct result of sin. (2 Timothy 4:18)

### **When we cry out to God, He responds in two ways:**

- By miracles. Remember, God always does the right thing.
- By making us an overcomer. In the midst of the struggle, God has given you the power to live above your circumstance. (John 16:33)

**God isn't fair** because fair is getting what we deserve. Be glad that we are NOT getting what we deserve but, instead, Jesus died for our sin! (Romans 6:23) God never promised we wouldn't have bad times, but He promised He would be with us through those bad times. He will never leave you or forsake you!

**"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV).**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Has God ever spoken to you? How did he speak to you? (Bible, in a dream, through a pastor or friend, etc.)
2. Talk about some practical ways to "turn down the world's volume" so you can hear God better? What things need to be quieted in your life?
3. Give an example of how God helped you be an overcomer. What struggle, pain or habits have you conquered with His help?
4. Have you experienced or witnesses a miracle from God? Tell us about it.

### **Next Steps**

- How can we pray for you this week? Write down each person's prayer requests and make it a point to pray for them and text them with an encouraging word at some point during the week.
- Remember prayer isn't about God moving towards us, prayer is about us moving towards God.

### **Prayer Focus**

- Pray for God to help us hear Him when He speaks to us, and to recognize His voice.
- Pray for God to meet every need and heal every sickness.
- Pray for God to stop the spread of the coronavirus.