

HOW TO HEAR FROM **GOD**

THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

BIG IDEA

in order to hear God's voice, we must recognize God's voice.

The best way to recognize God's voice is by immersing yourself in His Word.

God's Spirit is the guide.
God's Word is the map. (gps)

A GPS can take us to where we need to go
physically

God's Word can take us to where we need to be
spiritually.

GOD'S SPIRIT IS THE GUIDE. GOD'S WORD IS THE MAP. (GPS)

GPS stands for Global Positioning System, and it lets us know where we are and where we are going anywhere on Earth.

**A GPS CAN TAKE US TO WHERE WE NEED TO GO PHYSICALLY
GOD'S WORD CAN TAKE US TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE
SPIRITUALLY.**

John 10:27 CSB

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. [17]

God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Tools & tips for reading &
learning God's Word .

1. **Develop a desire to meet with God.**

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

Psalm 119:1-3 Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. [2] Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. [3] They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths

2. Develop spiritual discipline and habit, not a checklist. (Remember, spiritual disciplines are the path but spiritual growth is the purpose)

3. **Develop a plan** (what) and be intentional with how & when you're going to carry it out.

**4. Prepare your heart & Pray
before | after**

5. Context is key

Take the time to understand the context of the passage you're reading (I'll attach helpful apps & tools for this area) It's important to first understand the true meaning of the text rather than forcing it to mean something it really doesn't.

6. Application matters.

Focus on quantity over quality (it's much better to read a few verses and apply them to your life than to read several verses and forget everything you read)

7. Highlight and journal

Take note of what stands out to you personally from what you are reading & keep that in your mind throughout your day.

8. Bring others along & have someone further along.

(Read through a study with your friends or family) Have someone further along than you spiritually in your life who can pour into you and can guide you (we have awesome people at Faith Arlington who would love to help & be that for you)

One age old method that's super easy to follow and works great is the SOAP method:

Scripture
Observation
Application
Prayer

Discipleship online resources:

<https://www.fbachurch.org/discipleship/>

For scripture context & understanding:

- Read the book introduction in the He reads truth or she reads truth app or website.
- Get a Study Bible (CSB, NLT, ESV, NIV)
- Do a Bible study through he reads truth / She reads truth or daily grace co
- Bibleref.com (plug in the verse you are trying to understand)
- TheBiblerecap.com or the Bible recap podcast / App
- ChatGPT the verse you are trying to understand & ask for scripture to back the explanation.
- Biblestudytools.com

Side note: Dwell is a
great Bible listening app

**You can listen to the entire New
Testament in around 18 hours**

- The teachings of Jesus are found in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and in the rest of the New Testament as the remaining books are written by those who followed Jesus literally or were at least taught by those who followed Jesus.
- The best place to start with learning the teachings of Jesus is in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) The gospels cover the life & ministry of Jesus (the one we're trying to live like)
- Move your way into the rest of the New Testament (Acts is a great next step book to jump into after the gospels)
- If you're starting out and reading through the Old Testament, try to find a study that intertwines the old and New Testament to understand the connection of the entirety of God's Word.
- Proverbs is great for practical wisdom & Psalms is great for prayer

GPS Analogy: A lot of people are looking for direction but aren't using the map.

How would you describe the difference between using God's Word as a "map" versus relying on other sources for guidance?

How is God's Word our map for life? Why don't we use it more often?

What happens when someone doesn't use Scripture as their foundation for direction?

What happens when we try to follow God without using the "map" (His Word)?

What are some alternative sources people rely on for direction instead of God's Word, and what potential risks or dangers can come from relying on those?

Questions around the tools & tips:

How can we cultivate a genuine desire to meet with God, even when we feel spiritually dry?

How can we keep our Bible reading from becoming just another task to check off a to-do list?

Why is it important to have a plan for when, where, and how you'll spend time in God's Word?

How can **accountability** (like sharing your plan with someone) help you stay consistent?

How does **praying** before reading Scripture change your perspective?

Why do you think it's important to pray after reading God's Word?

Why is it important to understand the **context** of a Bible passage before applying it to your life?

Why is **applying** God's Word to our lives more important than how much we read?

How can **journaling** or writing down insights help you engage more deeply with Scripture?

What are some **practical** ways to keep what you've read in your mind throughout the day?

How can reading or studying the Bible with **others** help us grow spiritually?

Why is it valuable to have **someone further along** in their faith pouring into you?

Who can you invite into your Bible reading journey, and how could you encourage them?