

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 3: Discovering Renewal in the Presence of the Spirit

Prayer Prompts, Weeks 2 and 3

Take a moment to consider this idea of “listening” to the Lord. Take a few minutes to share your own listening experiences from the past week.

Praise

Open today’s prayer with a time of praise.

Prayer leader: Lord, you *are* an awesome and mighty God. Your ways are not our ways and your thoughts are not our thoughts. Lord, your ways are as far above us as the heavens are the earth. In your wisdom you sent Jesus to walk among us—not as a king, but as a little child and a friend.

Others: You walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening; *or* you were not in the mighty wind or in the earthquake when Elijah was in the cave; you were present in the small, **quiet** voice; *or* some other way that God has “spoken” to man *or to me*.

Remember to allow for silence—that is one of the points of this exercise. Don’t jump out to fill that silence, but obey its instruction and listen: consider God’s awesome and faithful nature. You need not pray in turn—in fact, it may be best *not* to pray in turn to allow for more spontaneity. You may pray more than once or not pray aloud at all. The point is to **consider** the Lord and His amazing desire to communicate with us and then to listen for His voice.

Confession

When the praise has ended, the prayer leader will direct you into the next phase of the prayer: confession. Following her prompt, there will be three to five minutes of silence (it will seem a long time) as we confess to Him the many ways we have failed to listen to His voice, the difficulty we have in recognizing His voice, and how very badly we would like to hear Him.

Prayer leader: (Something on the order of this: Lord, though you have never stopped attempting to communicate yourself to us, we confess that we have not heard.) After three to five minutes, close the prayer, asking the Father to teach us to listen

Prayer leader: Father, we ask that you in your enduring faithfulness not forsake us, but continue to walk with us and speak with us; remind us to listen and give us ears to hear you. Teach us to recognize your voice as easily as we know the voices of those we love most here on earth.

Leave a few moments for others to pray here if they would like, then close the prayer.

When the prayer has ended, don’t rush to move or speak. Allow the experience to settle over you. What was your experience with the silence? How did it feel? What did you learn?