

Speak We're Listening

James 1:19, Ephesians 4:1, Proverbs 11:1, 2 Corinthians 3:2, Psalm 127:1, Isaiah 30:15, 2 Corinthians 10:1, 2 Samuel 22:36

God speaks. We believe this conference that people heard from heaven in a way that brings miracles, supernatural answers and divine guidance. God is going to speak into our circumstances and world, transforming churches and individuals. To hear God's voice, we need to get rid of the noise. The noise inside our hearts and head – anguish, worry, anxiety – and the noise outside us – conversations, negativity, chatter – can make it difficult to hear the voice of God. It is important to create margins in our head and heart so that we can hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

We are listening. Prayer is a dialogue. We can leave room for God to speak to us by being slow to speak and quick to listen. If we live our lives always telling instead of listening, we can miss what God and others are saying, and can live in a way that disrespects God and the people in our world. When we listen and hear God's voice, we receive divine guidance and direction, open our lives up to learn and grow, and can hear and help the cry of those around us. When we listen, we are empowered to live our lives to the extent God wants us to live.

Hearing God requires a life balanced by his word and Spirit. If we live lives angry, striving, obsessive, self-absorbed and lacking confidence we increase the noise, and make it difficult to hear God. If we live an unbalanced life, we make it challenging to have the relationships and connections with people that God intends us to have. We can be quick to anger if we feel unhappy, stressed, ignored, or misunderstood – but in all situations we can know God's truth, be filled with his Spirit and adopt the qualities of Jesus.

God's gentleness makes us great. When God touches our lives we feel loved, confident and strengthened. We don't have to strive for breakthrough or acceptance, we realise them in Christ. When we live by Christ's Spirit and adopt God's gentleness, he removes our insecurities, arrogance and pride. In quietness, strength and godly confidence we have ears attuned to his voice and live lives worthy of his calling that speak the message of his love to those around us. With God's gentleness we pray and speak words that are balanced and powerful, and understand the most essential part of our conversation is what he is saying. Speak to us Lord, we are listening.

Church Highlights

- Ps Brian's Book "Live, Love, Lead"

Pray Together

- Salvations, that people come to know Jesus
- Pastor Brian and Bobbie Houston
- The release of LIVE LOVE LEAD to impact multitudes of people

Nation Builders

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

Speak We're Listening

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Listening

Q How would you rate yourself as a listener – to people and to God?

Q Who is someone you know who's a good listener? What do they do that makes them easy to talk to?

Q What noise – inside and outside - makes it most difficult for you to hear God?

Q How can we get rid of the "noise" and create "margins" to listen?

Q What's something God has said to you recently, and what impact did it have on you?

Q In conversations with others, how do you strike the balance between speaking and listening?

Q What about with God?

Gentleness

Q How has Jesus led you with gentleness?

Q In what ways does *God's gentleness makes us great?*

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view

Read James 1:19-20

Q What does James mean when he says "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry?"

Q How should this be applied in our lives today? What are the benefits?

Q How could this verse be applied in an unbalanced way?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-6 and Ephesians 4:1

Q What is Paul saying about the people in the Corinthian church? Is this true about us today?

Q Describe from these passages and other passages what Paul means when he says "to live a life worthy of the calling?"

Read 2 Samuel 22:36, 1 Peter 3:15, Colossians 3:12, and Philippians 4:5.

Q How does gentleness make us great? How can it be a strength in our lives today?

Growing Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders

Listening

Q Why is being a good listener important as a leader?

Q How would you rate yourself as a listener?

Q How do you think others would rate you?

Q What qualities and behaviours makes someone a good listener?

Leading with Gentleness

Q Why is gentleness important to Christ-centred leadership?

Q How does gentleness work when, as a leader, you're trying to enlarge people's capacity and achieve goals?

Q How have you seen gentleness be strength in leadership?

Building the Group

Q Discuss creating margins in your life as a busy leader - to listen to God and the right voices when building a team or Connect Group.

Pastoral Care

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life's challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office:
Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888