

## Small Group Curriculum

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### [Hearing from God](#) • Week 2

It is an incomprehensible mystery and an unfathomable belovedness that God designed mankind to know Him and live in deep and intimate relationship with Him. He makes daily divine dialogue with Him possible through His world and His Word... the wonder of God's voice accessible to the common man... the provision of daily bread essential to life that is truly life. Jesus Himself affirms, "*It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*" (Matthew 4:4).

### REMINDERS

- Women's Collective gathering: a casual afternoon with snacks, conversation, and fun! **March 22nd from 3-5pm**. Registration and info [here](#).
- *Knowing God* daily scripture and prayer devotional [here](#).
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

### ICEBREAKER

#### FIRST-WORD-THAT-COMES-TO-MIND GAME

One word can potentially reveal something about a person. Play this game and be prepared to get to know your group members a little better through it.

The group leader will facilitate the game. Randomly, call on one group member who then will have to speak out (quickly!) the first word that comes to mind with any one of the people or things listed below. The response needs to be fast... no pausing or lengthy thinking. Be quick. Be bold. Be honest. Have fun with it!

Ryan Ingram	Love is Blind	euphoria
artificial intelligence	Taylor Swift	suffering
Christianity	gravity	Bad Bunny
darkness	influencer	Bugs Bunny
gossip	high school	pinky promise

# AWAKENING

## INTRODUCTION

It should come to no surprise that an ever-present, ever-loving, deeply relational God would speak to us daily in a lavish myriad of ways. God, being Love, longs to connect with His people personally. It is to our eternal benefit and flourishing for us to take our place and settle in on the receiving end, for we have been designed to experience fulfillment (no matter the circumstance) in knowing and hearing the God who loves us.

## REFLECTION and DISCUSSION:

1. What are ways that you have experienced God speaking to you? What has He been speaking to you lately? What are you learning about Him?
2. What crowds out God's voice in your heart and mind? Have you ever experienced struggling to hear from Him? What helped you return to His loving voice?
3. How does the Truth about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection help you commune and converse with God daily?

## DISCUSSION

As Ryan shared in his teaching, indeed the Bible is not a textbook, not a rule book, not a self-help book, nor is it merely a sacred book. Rather, it is a story of God's rescuing love for mankind. More personally, it is God's love letter to you.

But, hearing from God through His Word can stir up a plethora of thoughts, emotions, and questions. "Where do I begin?" "This book is not loving at all." "I don't understand this." "God, are you really speaking to me?" "Are these verses even relevant today?" "How is this story relevant to me?" "It's so hard to do this regularly!"

While all these are welcome at the table, it would be to our benefit to first stop to return to the heart of the Divine Voice speaking - that God's Word is an invitation to know Him and His love for you through Jesus Christ. So then, whether we bring our inner wrestlings or utter delight and everything in between, we can, in humble confidence, approach God's Word right where we are, just as we are.

1. Read [John 1:1, 1:14, 1:18](#).

The all-powerful, all-sovereign, all-knowing, almighty and perfect God has chosen, in love, to make Himself known to you through His Word. Take a moment to sit with this truth and magnify this reality in your heart and mind.

- How does this help form inspiration and motivation to spend time in God's Word?
- How does this soften the sense of obligation or intimidation and shift to coming to a loving conversation?

# AWAKENING

2. Read [John 16:12-15](#) and [Colossians 3:15-17](#).

- What comfort and encouragement do you receive knowing that the Holy Spirit guides you when you dive into Scripture and enables you to know God?
- What riches do you gain when you lean into community in learning about Him?

3. Knowing God through Scripture promises to be life-giving. However, it is not always a pleasant experience, especially when we are faced with hardship and brokenness.

- How do your circumstances or feelings affect your ability to receive the Word of God?
- How do the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ help when you struggle to listen and hear?

## RESPONSE AND PRAYER

Do a Lectio Divina on these verses, then end your time in prayer together.

*Lectio Divina (Latin for “divine reading”) is an ancient Christian practice of reading Scripture slowly and prayerfully, meditating on God’s Word, and listening for God’s voice.*

*Lectio* - Read the Scripture slowly

*Meditatio* - Read the Scripture and meditate on it; intentionally listen for the “still, small voice” of the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or phrase to you

*Oratio* - Read the Scripture and respond by praying it back to God

*Contemplatio* - Read the Scripture and rest in God’s presence by sitting in silence

***As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.***

Isaiah 55:10-11