



19 JUNE 2022 | JOSH YEOH | HEARING GOD'S VOICE LUKE 24:13-35

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the importance of hearing's God voice
2. Be aware of what keeps us from recognising God's voice in our lives
3. Desire to hear from God and meet with Him on a daily basis, and grow in obedience to Him

SERMON SUMMARY

Josh shared the importance of learning to hear God's voice. Hearing God involves both listening and obeying. We hear God's voice through His whispers, in Jesus, in the Bible, in prayer and in prophecy. What is keeping us from hearing God's voice? Could it be issues of disobedience, definitions or distractions? Let us posture ourselves to hear and obey Him daily.

SERMON RECAP

1. Hearing God involves both hearing and obeying.

- Jesus and the rabbis considered the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) as the heart of the Law.
- In Hebrew, the phrase "Hear O Israel" in Deuteronomy 6:4, means to allow the words to sink in, to give understanding, and to evoke a response.
- "Shema" = to hear, to listen, to obey.
- It is natural for a baby/child to recognise his own father's voice. Why isn't it this natural for us – God's children – to recognise the voice of our Heavenly Father? How many times have we actually heard God speak and yet gone back into the slumber of our own pursuits?
- Have we become a people who just want to hear God but don't really want to obey Him? Do we make it a point to obey God? Are we growing in obedience to God?
- The onus is not on God to convince us, the onus is on us to embrace obedience. God gets to say and do whatever He wants. Our response to Him should always be 'Yes' no matter what the cost.
- Is our posture one of obedience when we hear God speak?
- As parents/the older generation, we need to model rapid obedience (e.g. saying "yes" to God) for our children / the younger generation.
 - God can speak through our children (e.g. Samuel in the Bible), and raise up young children who hear the voice of God.
 - We need to model with our lives, what it means to hear God and obey Him.
 - How can we journey alongside the younger generation to guide and model for them what it means to hear God and obey him?



2. **We hear God's voice in Jesus, in the Bible, in prayer and in prophecy. Reasons that keep us from hearing God's voice could be issues of disobedience, definitions or distractions.**

- "Jesus himself drew near" to his disciples ([Luke 24:15](#))- What if Jesus is drawing near to us in the midst of what we are going through right now?
- Hearing God looks like meeting a person – God speaks and His voice sounds like Jesus. How well do we know Jesus? When was the last time you met with Him? Let's not wait any longer to meet with Jesus – He is drawing near to us.
- What is keeping us from recognising Jesus/hearing the voice of God ([Luke 24:16-17](#))? Josh highlighted a few possible reasons:
 - **Disobedience** – Could it be that God had spoken; we heard but didn't obey? Is God waiting for us to say 'yes' to what He has spoken?
 - **We hear but don't recognise Him**– we often confuse theology (God speaking) with psychology (the human mind and how we hear God speak). Different people hear God differently (e.g. sensing versus intuition – we are either sensors or intuitive). God speaks to us not just about future events (the prophetic), but also about concrete and ordinary details of our present life (e.g. our health, daily routine etc.). Have we mystified what hearing from God is like?
 - **We hear Him but we've become distracted** (e.g. physiological, psychological, or spiritual distraction) – what are the things that have happened in our lives that have caused us to not be able to hear or recognise Him? For example, Josh talked about how "inattentional blindness" and being so focused on something else in our lives could make it difficult for us to recognise God – What are the areas in our lives / past experiences (e.g. trauma, offences) that are keeping us from recognising Jesus?
- **It takes God to hear God** – we cannot hear Him by our own strength. We need the Holy Spirit to help us.
- God wants to lead us into that moment where we can hear and recognise Him. In the breaking of bread, the disciples' eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus ([Luke 24:30-31](#)) and they realised "their hearts burned" when Jesus talked to them ([Luke 24:32](#)). When was the last time our hearts burned for the Lord/when we heard God speak?

3. **We hear God's voice through His whispers.**

In [John 10:27](#), Jesus says "my sheep hear my voice".

- Many of us have heard God speak to us before. Josh challenged us to share what we heard from God or what God is saying to us, with a fellow brother/sister in Christ, to build one another up and let God speak to others through our personal sharing.
- Instead of always trying to hear God about ourselves, Josh challenged us to hear God without our own personal agenda, to know what's on His heart.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Hearing God involves both listening (hearing) and obeying (Deuteronomy 6 – the Shema). Share how God has been speaking to you in your daily life, or a specific occasion where you heard from God.
2. Josh shared that some of the reasons that keep us from hearing God could be issues of disobedience, definitions or distractions. What is keeping you from hearing or recognising God's voice?
3. Jesus said in John 10:27 that “my sheep hears my voice”? How might we posture ourselves to hear God on a daily basis, and to be a community that hear and obey His voice?

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to desire to hear God's voice and be led by Him on a daily basis.
- For God to help us overcome areas of disobedience, definitions and distractions that prevent us from hearing God, and make space for Him by e.g. setting aside time for prayer, quiet reflection etc. to hear from God daily.
- For God to give us courage to obey Him when we hear Him speak.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God's continued protection from the virus.
- Pray for lives and businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic.

3. Russia-Ukraine War

- Pray for a swift end to this war and for the principalities that are influencing this situation to be broken.
- Protection for the people of Ukraine especially those who are believers.

4. Mass Shootings in USA

- Pray for God to comfort the affected families.
- Pray for a change in gun laws in US to facilitate a safer environment in the USA.

5. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

- 1. How to Pray and Change Your World Seminar with David & Greta Peters, 8-9 July.** This seminar is designed to help you grow and mature in their prayer life, especially if you have desire to see how a lifestyle of prayer can change the world around you. David & Greta will teach on Intercession, Prophetic Prayer as well as The Power of Declarations and Praying Scripture. Details: Fri, 8 Jul at 8pm-10pm and Sat, 9 Jul at 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration is required for this seminar, and you may obtain complimentary tickets via this link: rlc.sg/prayer-seminar.
- 2. Joining The Family.** 30 Jul, Sat, 10.30am – 12.30pm, In-person at Faith Chapel. Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 17 Jul. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.
- 3. 40-Day Prayer 2022.** 40-Day is an annual national prayer initiative by LoveSingapore. The theme for this year's prayer guide is "to live is Christ", a journey through the book of Philippians. The published prayer guide on the 40-Day 2022 website (<https://www.lovesingapore.org.sg/>) launched on Thursday, 23 June. Prayer entries will be posted one day at a time starting from Friday, 1 July. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord.
- 4. Spiritual Parenting for Young Couples (SPYces). 3-31 July, 1.45pm – 5.00pm.** This course is for parents with adult children who are married or soon-to-be married. This course will help you to walk with your adult children as spiritual parents. Registration: rlc.sg/spyces. For more information, contact Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg.
- 5. Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
- 6. F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
- 7. Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five



TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.

8. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
9. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
10. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
11. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
12. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
13. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
14. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
15. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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