

THE FREEDOM STUDIES | Part One | Encountering Jesus | STUDY 02

# Hearing His Voice

Learning how Scripture and the Holy Spirit work together to lead us into truth.

A Grace-Centered, Spirit-Led Journey with Jesus

## KEY SCRIPTURES | NIV

2 Timothy 3:14-17 | John 10:1-5, 27-30 | John 14:15-27 | John 16:12-15 | Acts 17:10-12

About 50-65 minutes | Individual or group study

## AN INVITATION

# Before We Begin

Many voices compete for our attention: family expectations, church traditions, culture, fear, personal desire, and the opinions of influential people. Learning to follow Jesus includes learning to recognize His voice among them.

God has not asked us to choose between Scripture and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit inspired the written Word, helps us understand it, and continually directs our attention to Jesus. This study invites us to listen with humility while testing what we hear in the light of Scripture and the character of Christ.

### Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, lead me into truth and help me see Jesus clearly. Quiet the voices of fear, pressure, pride, and confusion. Give me humility to receive Scripture in context, wisdom to test what I hear, and courage to follow the voice of Jesus. Amen.

## A TRUSTWORTHY FOUNDATION

# Scripture Leads Us Toward God

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

Paul reminds Timothy that Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, correction, and training so that God's servant may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Scripture is not given as a weapon for controlling other people. It forms, corrects, and equips us so that our lives increasingly reflect God's goodness. Its purpose is not merely to fill our minds with information, but to lead us into a faithful life with God.

Reading in context matters. A verse separated from its audience, setting, and place in the biblical story can be made to support conclusions the passage never intended. Humility asks not only, 'What does this verse say?' but also, 'What is happening here, and how does it point us toward Jesus?'

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

1. What purposes for Scripture do you notice in this passage?
2. How is being equipped for good works different from trying to earn God's acceptance?
3. Have you experienced Scripture as healing and formative, or primarily as correction and pressure?
4. What habits could help you read passages in their wider context?

# The Shepherd Calls by Name

Read John 10:1-5 and 27-30 (NIV)

Jesus describes Himself as the shepherd whose sheep recognize His voice, follow Him, and find safety in His care. He knows them and gives them eternal life.

Jesus' voice is consistent with Jesus' character. He leads rather than drives, calls rather than coerces, and protects rather than exploits. Recognizing His voice grows through relationship-not through fear that one mistaken step will cause Him to abandon us.

Other voices may use urgency, shame, threats, flattery, or demands for unquestioning loyalty. The Shepherd's voice may convict and challenge us, but it draws us toward truth, trust, love, and deeper dependence on Him.

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

1. What qualities of Jesus' leadership appear in this passage?
2. How might relationship help someone recognize a voice over time?
3. Which voices have most strongly shaped your picture of what God expects from you?
4. Does what you are hearing lead you toward Jesus or toward dependence on a person or system?

## THE HELPER WITHIN US

# The Spirit Reminds and Guides

Read John 14:15-27 and John 16:12-15 (NIV)

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, who teaches, reminds the disciples of His words, guides them into truth, and glorifies Jesus.

The Spirit's work is deeply centered on Jesus. He does not compete with the written Word or promote the importance of a human leader. He reminds us of Jesus' teaching, helps us understand truth, and forms the life of Christ within us.

Not every strong feeling or inner impression is necessarily the Holy Spirit. We can hold impressions humbly, test them by Scripture, consider whether they resemble Jesus, and remain open to correction. Discernment is not unbelief; it is part of faithful listening.

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

1. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?
2. Why is it important that the Spirit glorifies Jesus rather than a person or movement?
3. How can an impression be tested without dismissing the Spirit's personal leading?
4. Where might you need the Spirit's peace, reminder, or guidance today?

# Receive Eagerly and Examine Carefully

Read Acts 17:10-12 (NIV)

The Bereans receive Paul's message with eagerness while examining the Scriptures daily to determine whether what he says is true.

The Bereans demonstrate that openness and discernment belong together. They do not reject teaching simply because it is new, and they do not accept it simply because an influential teacher presents it.

Healthy spiritual leadership welcomes thoughtful examination. A teacher's confidence, title, sacrifice, or success does not make every interpretation correct. Scripture remains available to the whole community of believers.

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

1. What do you admire about the Bereans' posture?
2. Have you ever been discouraged from examining a teaching for yourself?
3. What is the difference between a sincere question and a determination never to learn?
4. Is there a teaching you may need to revisit with fresh eyes and the full context of Scripture?

## NO PRESSURE - ONLY HONESTY

# Your Response

Take a few quiet moments. You do not need to force an answer or manufacture a message from God. Listening can begin with making room for Scripture, prayer, humility, and patient attention.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What have you learned about the relationship between Scripture and the Holy Spirit?
2. Which voice or influence may need to become quieter so that you can listen to Jesus more clearly?
3. What teaching or impression would benefit from careful examination in context?
4. What simple practice could help you become more attentive to Jesus this week?

## A PRAYER YOU MAY MAKE YOUR OWN

# Closing Prayer

Jesus, I want to know Your voice. Thank You for giving us Scripture and for sending the Holy Spirit to teach, remind, comfort, and guide us. Protect me from deception, including my own assumptions. Help me receive truth eagerly, examine it carefully, and follow You with freedom and trust. Amen.

## A Note for Anyone Walking Alongside Another Person

Do not present your interpretation as though it were the Holy Spirit's private message for another person. Encourage participants to read the full context, express questions, and take time. Model the humility to say, 'This is how I currently understand the passage,' and remain open to learning.

Continue when you are ready: The Kingdom Jesus Brings

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