



**Date & Sermon Series:**

October 28/29, 2017; Whisper

**Speaker: Mark Batterson**

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 11:15

**Note to Leaders:**

This weekend we talked about hearing the voice of God. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow. You can also use these questions on your own to dive deeper into this week's sermon.

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

**Specific Questions:**

1. Pastor Mark says, "The Mokens, an ocean based Austronesian ethnic group, knew how to look, they knew how to listen, they knew a language that others did not with the open seas." Where do you need to go back to the basics of remembering how God speaks to you? Where do you tend to look? How do you typically listen?
2. Pastor Mark says, "Chronic noise may be the greatest impediment to our spiritual growth." How can we recalibrate our ears to get rid of white noise? In what ways is our life too loud?

3. How often do you practice quiet time so you can hear God's voice? Just as Beethoven began his 5th symphony with an eighth rest at the beginning and the end of the symphony, where do we need to add an eighth rest in our life as a sonic buffer to allow us to hear God's still small voice?

4. C.S. Lewis says, "God whispers through our pleasures but shouts through our pain." We know that pain is a byproduct of the curse found in Genesis 3, but when can you recall a time where you heard God speak through your pain?

5. We listen through the filter of our history, personality, and theology, which can make it difficult to hear what's actually being said. What filters are you listening through?

6. One of the most mysterious capabilities of the human ear is the ability to tune out some sounds while tuning into others. What are you tuning out that you should be paying attention to? What are you listening to that you should be tuning out?

### **Diving Deeper:**

#### **Read/Prayer**

This week, go back and read each of the Scripture verses that support the "secondary languages" through which God speaks.

Psalm 46:10

Psalm 37:4

James 1:22

2 Timothy 3:16

Revelation 3:7-8

#### **Invitation/Challenge**

- 1) Spend 15 minutes a day listening to God. (It may take getting used to the quiet. Be patient in the process.)
- 2) Lectio Divina- Spend time again this week intentionally reading Scripture for depth not just breadth. Lectio Divina is divided into four key areas:
  - Reading
  - Meditating
  - Praying
  - Contemplating

- 3) Build an eighth rest at the beginning of your day and the end of the day. Carve out restful, peaceful silence at the beginning of your morning before you grab the phone or the laptop. Turn off the TV early before you go to sleep so that you can carve out an eighth rest at the end of your day. Grab a journal, read a book, sit in silence, etc.