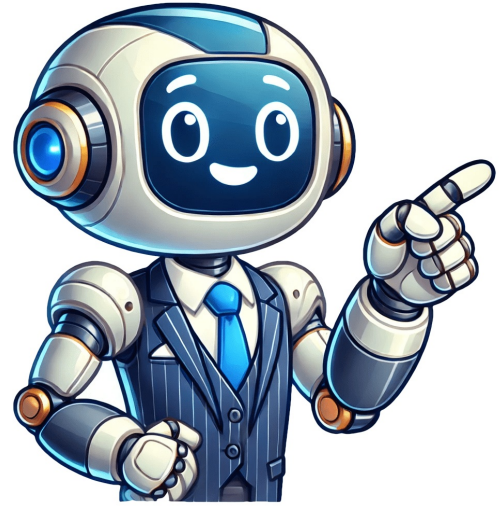


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Welcome to Session 5 of theDiscerning the Voice of Godonline Bible study! This week, we were reminded that knowing God and His heart is another essential piece to hearing Gods voice. We hope that you were encouraged as you were reminded of Gods heart, character, and great love for you. Were excited to hear more about what youre learning as we discuss this week!If you have any questions about how this study works, weve answered most of themhere.Have more questions not answered there?Check out our Online Bible Study FAQs.The free online videos for this online Bible study are no longer available, but you can purchase or rent video sessions here.Did you miss our first few sessions? Dont worry!Click here for Session 1Click here for Session 2Click here for Session 3Click here for Session 4Before we jump into Session 5, wed love to hear more about what you learned this week walking through Week 4: Reflective of His Heart in yourBible study book. Answer one or both of these questions in your group or in the comments below!In your own words, what is the difference between condemnation and conviction? (page 113) As youve studied, how have you been able to more readily identify Gods encouragement and conviction versus the enemys condemnation and discouragement?Recall a time when Gods Word, revealing Gods character, produced a change in your life. What were some of the immediate impacts? (page 129)Now, lets jump in to the Session 5 video!Turn to the viewer guide on page 133 of your Bible study book to follow along and fill in the blanks. Dont have your book yet?Heresan answer guide you can use while you wait. Miss an answer? Find ithere.After watching the video, answer one or more of these questions in your group or in the comments below to participate in the discussion with our friends around the world!In difficult circumstances, why does it take an intentional effort to shift our focus from our surroundings? When you are in a desert season, do you run to God or run from God? Why do you think you respond that way?Is there one thought or sentence that stuck out to you in this weeks video? What stood out and why?Before watching the next video, complete Discerning the Voice of God Session 5, Revealing of His Plans, in the Bible study book. See you next week!What a journey we have taken in this study with Priscilla Shirer. She's talked about our stance of obedience, that the Holy Spirit is the primary way we hear from God, the Holy Spirit guides us progressively, personally and internally, and that discerning the voice of God connects strongly to God's character.In Session 5, Priscilla talks about"Revealing of His Plans."This is the statement Priscilla made: "Our God showers us with grace and mercy, kissing us so to speak, but we're totally unaware of it." She had just related a story about her boys and ended with this statement.It's hard to hear His voice when life is tough or we're in a season of dryness. She said that when we're in these times, we have to remember:He is for youHe is with youHis handiwork still surrounds youHe intends to do you goodIn Exodus 3:1-2, there is an encouragement for us in these scriptures. Moses was in a dry place - the middle of the desert tending sheep for 40 years. It was in this dry place, that the "smoke signal of God's glory", as Priscilla puts it, shows up. This is what you need to know in your dry place: Principle #1 - God manifests His presence in the desert. Bushes don't burn in palaces. They burn in deserts. The best place for His voice to be clearly heard is not when we're in the place where life is going great (the palace), but while in the dry wilderness season of your life (the desert). She instructed us not to be discouraged there but to "look to see traces of His glory all around you." What can happen in this place? our hearts are more tenderwe're expecting to see glimpses of God's gloryexpecting God is going to moveC.S. Lewis said this:"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain." God is weaving together a masterpiece for your life when you think He is doing nothing - nothing is happening, nothing is changing. "Your life is a masterpiece God is writing", Priscilla said. Do you think God has forgotten you? Hebrews 13:5b says this: "I will never leave you nor will I forsake you." We looked at several passages of scripture relating stories of difficulties and seeing God's hand in it all:Luke 24:13-35 - Road to EmmausIsaiah 6:1 - King Uzziah's deathDaniel 3 - The fiery furnaceHabakkuk 2:3 - Habakkuk lamenting the state of the nationGenesis 37-47 - Joseph's storyBook of Esther - Esther's storyBook of Ruth - Ruth's storyLuke 22-24 - Jesus' storyWe learned that the beauty of these stories and our God is that "difficulty turns into triumph."The keyto seeing God's plan while in the desert is to take your attention off of the circumstancesand place them on God's presence in the circumstances. See Exodus 3:3 "I must turn aside and look." Moses looked at the supernatural act happening in front of him. We should not magnify the problem, but magnify our God - worship Him. We must be intentional about doing this in our season of dryness. A book Priscilla mentioned that might help us fix our attention on Jesus is a written-down book of prayers. These prayers, she said, can be a launching pad for conversations with God when we feel too dry to even pray. ("A Diary of Private Prayer" by John Baillie). She also mentioned that in Exodus 3:1 "Moses was in the wilderness performing the duty he was instructed to perform." We were asked to highlight:pasturingleadingmountain of GodHe wasn't disengaged.Sometimes the reason why we don't hear God's voice in our season of dryness is we have totally disengaged from what He has given us to do. Our attitudes and actions are not fully invested in what He has put in front of us to do. Principle #2 - God equipsyoufor His purposes in the desert. Moses is called to attend another type of flock - the Israelites. Maybe you're feeling stuck or feel as if you're not gaining any ground. Maybe you're wondering why you're in this season. Remember this: He's giving you the character, the substance, the fortification, the foundational work that will be necessary for Him to accomplish His work through you. God is doing a foundational work in us during this season that we cannot see. "It will be exactly what you'll need for the next season of your life." Moses was not just leading the Israelites but leading them to a particular destination: the mountain of God (Exodus 19-20). Principle #3 - God rechartsyour coursein the desert.take your sandals off. The place you're standing on his Holy ground." Everytime we see glimpses of God's glory, it's our invitation to worship, Priscilla said. Her encouragement to us in our season of dryness was that:our ears would be openour heart would be primedour eyes would be alightSo that:We would see the goodness and grace of God even in our desert season. Session 6: "A Continual State of Readiness" More than a decade ago, Priscilla Shirer authoredDiscerning the Voice of God, and since then God has continued to grow, teach, and challenge her in her walk with Him. This revised and expanded edition reflects that growth through new stories, illustrations, and, exercises.Through 7 sessions, discover the root to clear and daily communication with God - humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.Free ResourcesSample | Viewer Guide | Viewer Guide with Answers | Church Promo Tools

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