



## SESSION 5

# Hearing God through His Word

### Key takeaways for new believers:

- Hearing God may sound very odd at first. We don't tend to 'hear' God in an audible way, but He communicates with us through the bible, and also through other members of the church
- You too, can grow in confidence that you 'hear' directly from God

### Part 1

identity

community

mission

- How did you get on telling the story about prayer? Discuss students' experiences of telling the story to others or contemplating it themselves
- Ask if any of the group would like to read / tell their version of the Lord's prayer
- Allow participants time to discuss any pastoral / spiritual issues on their minds



## CHRIST CENTRAL

### Part 2 (story)

identity

community

mission

*Transition from session 4:* last time we talked about prayer, now we will see how God communicates with us through the bible and through other believers.

#### **Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) NLT translation**

*We now move to a story at the end of Jesus' life. He had been buried in a tomb, and 3 days later the women went to the tomb to anoint the body. When they arrived, the tomb was open and they discovered that Jesus was alive. Later that day ...*

Two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened ... Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognising him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them ... replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things ... that happened to Jesus. He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and ... was a mighty teacher ... but our ... religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago."

*They continued* "Then some women ... were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the *king* would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the ... disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognised him as he was breaking the bread.



## CHRIST CENTRAL

### Questions for discussion

identity

community

1. What do you like about this story?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?

### Part 3 (practice / takeaways)

identity

mission

worship

Ask the remaining questions:

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story?
7. Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to?

Pray that new believers will be able to see the importance to reading the bible and expect God to reveal more about himself to them.

Pray for the group to encourage each other by sharing what they have learnt whilst reading the bible / telling bible stories, and that they too can be the way God speaks to others.

Pray through any pastoral or spiritual issues that may have been raised

Encourage participants to meditate on the following Bible verses (Please note that the first verse may need a little explaining):

- **Hebrews 4:12** (For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.)
- **2 Timothy 3:16** (All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.)
- **John 10:27** (My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.)

### Other useful media resources

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmmTWQn95xQ>

Youtube video clip of Road to Emmaus from BBC ministries 'The Passion'