

# “HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK”

*Expressions #4 • Psalm 19*

## INTRODUCTION

There are many ways that God has chosen to reveal himself to us. We hear Him through His Word, the Bible. He speaks to us by His Spirit in times of prayer, and He can also be heard through His creation. In Psalm 19, David rejoices in the many ways God speaks. If we are listening, we too will hear God speak to us.

### ***Ice Breaker (Optional):***

How does creation (nature) speak and inspire you personally?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **PAY ATTENTION to the call of creation.**

#### **Q1. Read Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 65:8**

This psalm tells us the skies declare God’s glory. When you gaze into the sky, what do you find that reminds you of God’s glory? David also tells us that God’s declaration of His glory is continual and the message goes to all the earth. What does this reveal about the extent of God’s desire to be known? God does not only want us to know “about” Him, but also to experience Him. What kind of relationship is shown in v.5?

### **PURSUE the promises of scripture.**

#### **Q2. Read Psalm 19:7-8; Romans 7:22; Romans 15:4; James 1:25**

Another way God speaks to us is through His Word. We can rest in the assurance that God’s Word is perfect, trustworthy, right and radiant. Which of these do you find most often results from your study of God’s Word: refreshing, wisdom, joy, or gladness? Are there any of these responses you want to see increased in your life? Both Romans 15:4 and James 1:25 tell us endurance or perseverance applied to the scriptures will result in blessing. What are some ways you’ve found to help you consistently pursue God’s Word?

### **PRESS into God’s presence.**

#### **Q3. Read Psalm 19:9-10; Matthew 10:28**

Verses 9 and 10 of Psalm 19 identify both the fear of God and the value of His decrees. The word used for fear (*yir’ah*) means to have reverence and to be terrified. Even though God has extended His love to us, He remains a holy God, and His righteous judgment will come to the earth one day. What did Jesus tell His twelve disciples in Matthew 10:28? What are some circumstances under which your fear and awe of God

are increased? One way that we can express our reverence for God is through genuine worship. Our expression of worship is not always musical. What are some of the ways you express your worship of God?

#### **Q4. Read Psalm 19:11-13; 1 John 1:8**

As a result of David recognizing who God is, his own sinfulness was exposed. He saw that he had not heeded the warnings of God’s Word. What is David’s question in verse 12? Do you find it hard to identify your own sins? Although we don’t like to admit it, what does 1 John 1:8 say is true about us all? How did David deal with his sinfulness (v.12-13)? It is difficult to humble yourself, admit your sins and ask forgiveness, but if you want to please God and receive His blessing, you must. Tonight set aside time, just as David did, for reflective prayer to seek God’s forgiveness of your hidden or willful sins.

#### **Q5. Read Psalm 51:6; Psalm 19:14**

We are challenged not to allow our repentance to be merely an external expression. What does Psalm 51:6 tell us God delights in? Allow your repentance to sink deep into your “secret heart” and you will find the words of Psalm 19:14 are a natural expression of your heart’s desire.

## Wrap-Up

In Psalm 19 David hears God’s voice. He recognizes it in creation, through the scripture and in the presence of God. David found that God speaks continually through creation because of His deep desire to have a relationship with us. Through the scriptures God offers us blessings of rest, growth, joy and vision. As we draw near our God we should naturally feel both reverence and fear, seeing our sins in the brightness of His holiness. We can be thankful that God forgives and cleanses us from all of our sins, even those we find hard to recognize, leaving us blameless and innocent. That truth results in a heart that seeks to please our Rock and our Redeemer, Jesus.

### **Memory Verse**

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

*Psalm 19:14 NLT*

## Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: Find a solitary place to observe God’s creation, looking for God’s glory and His love revealed to you there.

**Q1**

Psalm 19:1-14 NIV - 1 ... The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Psalm 65:8 ESV - 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

**Q2**

Psalm 19:7 – 8 NIV - 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Romans 7:22 ESV - 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

Romans 15:4 ESV - 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

James 1:25 ESV - 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

**Q3**

Psalm 19:19-14 NIV - 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

Matthew 10:28 ESV - 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Q4**

Psalm 19:11-13 NIV - 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

1 John 1:8 ESV - 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Q5**

Psalm 51:6 ESV - 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psalm 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Prayers Con't: \_\_\_\_\_  
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