

Listen up! Study

Week One, Pages 1–15

1. The goal of this study is to become a better hearer of God's word. Begin by evaluating your current practices. Describe how you normally prepare for Sunday mornings. Do you pray for the preacher? Do you come expectantly? Do you fight distracting thoughts in order to stay engaged during the preaching? Do you regularly discuss the sermon after the service? When was the last time you responded in a specific way to a sermon? Meditate on James 1:19–25, and then rate yourself as a hearer on a scale of 1 to 10.
2. On page 5, the author compares biblical preaching to hearing “the voice of God.” What exactly does he mean and how does he back up his claim with Bible verses? Assuming he is right about this, how should this affect our attitude as we listen to sermons?
3. Which parts of this week's preached Bible passage challenge your beliefs or lifestyle (from page 10)?
4. What was the main point from this week's sermon? Did that main point come from the Bible or was the biblical connection fuzzy? Did the preacher say anything that puzzled you?
5. Why is it so important to be regularly engaging with the preaching at your local church even though the internet is filled with recorded sermons by amazing preachers (see pages 13–15)?

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Week Two, Pages 16–31

1. How is your church attendance record (from page 17)? On the Sundays that you missed, did you have a biblical reason? Ask your group for feedback if you are not sure.
2. After the next sermon you listen to, talk to someone after the service about it. You can always just ask, “So what stuck out to you from that sermon?” Why is it important to do this regularly?
3. What is wrong with viewing preaching as entertainment? See pages 18–20. If entertainment is not the main goal of preaching, what is?
4. According to the author, how does the devil trick people into not responding immediately to the preaching they listen to? See page 22. Reflect on this and then pray through the “practical steps to take” on page 24.
5. How did the author help you think about what to do when you find yourself listening to a “bad sermon.” See pages 25–29.