

LEADER GUIDE

SESSION ONE

DISCUSSION STARTER: After meeting others in the group, encourage women to discuss what drew them to participate in this *Discerning the Voice of God* study. Ask the women in the group: What first comes to mind when they think of hearing from God? Does hearing from God come easily or has it been a struggle? Talk through expectations for the study.

READ JOHN 5:30 AND DISCUSS Jesus' submission to God the Father's will in all that He did. With Jesus as our model, what might submission to the Father's will look like in our everyday lives? Does this come easily to most of us? Why or why not?

WATCH THE WEEK ONE VIDEO.

- What resonated most with you from the video teaching?
- How do you struggle with stillness and prayer? What can you do to intentionally practice stillness?
- Have you ever been reluctant to obey something you felt God was telling you to do because you didn't think God would "work" in that way? If you feel comfortable, please share that story with the group.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER.

SESSION TWO

DISCUSSION STARTER: Review the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22:2-3. Ask women to share what comes to mind when they hear the word *obedience*. Has their understanding of that term changed since they were children? Ask women to share (as much as they are comfortable) the areas in which they sense God asking

them to make some changes as they walk forward in obedience to Him (P. 27). Talk through counting the cost—the tension between loss and reward, doubt and faith.

READ JOHN 16:5-15 AND DISCUSS the God-given roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Ask women what preconceived notions about the Holy Spirit they bring to the table.

WATCH THE WEEK TWO VIDEO.

- What, if anything, in the video teaching challenged the way you currently view the Holy Spirit and His work in your life? How have you seen Him work in your life up to this point? Are you willing to adjust your preferences and decisions as the Holy Spirit leads? Reference the "Red light, Yellow Light, Green Light" illustration and its usefulness in understanding the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Discuss the Body/Soul/Spirit diagram (P. 48) that Priscilla describes in the video teaching. Ask women to speak about a time God allowed them to see His sanctification process in their lives—perhaps a time where their desires, actions, or thoughts shifted in a more "Godward" direction.

ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER TO CLOSE YOUR TIME IN PRAYER.

SESSION THREE

DISCUSSION STARTER: Briefly discuss the "Five Ms of Correctly Hearing God" (P. 55). Which of these was particularly encouraging/challenging? Does the idea of "practicing" to discern God's voice

make sense and come naturally or why might it seem a bit strange at first?

READ JOHN 10:27-30 AND DISCUSS God's role as our shepherd. Take a moment to focus on verse 27, "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...*" talking through God's intentionality to speak in a way that His children can hear.

WATCH THE WEEK THREE VIDEO.

- Ask women to share a story of a time they clearly heard God's direction. Or, perhaps, a time when God asked them to wait.
- Discuss Priscilla's quote "Waiting on God means being obedient and fully engaged in what He has currently given you to do until your Guide tells you to take the next turn." Is there an area that you've been asking God to work in and He seems to be moving more slowly than you like? If we applied this quote to our situations, how would that inform our daily walks and attitudes about our current circumstances?

AS A GROUP, PRAY SPECIFICALLY FOR THINGS IN YOUR LIVES THAT YOU'RE SEEKING THE LORD ABOUT.

SESSION FOUR

DISCUSSION STARTER: Focusing on God's Word can sometimes seem like a daunting task, especially when it's a new practice. Discuss the practice of continually thinking over God's Word in Bible study and throughout the day. Then, reference your priorities list (P. 90). Ask women what they would need to do to

make studying and praying God's Word a priority. Make sure to talk about the practice of dwelling on God's Word throughout the day, "as they go." They can think on God's Word while folding laundry, driving, grocery shopping, or running on the treadmill.

READ JOHN 8:1-11 AND DISCUSS the difference between Jesus' reaction and the reaction of the Scribes and Pharisees to the woman caught in adultery. When discerning the voice of God, we'll need to learn to discern the voice of others—so we can disregard their speech in favor of God's instructions. In this passage, how do we see God's voice of conviction versus the Pharisees' voices of condemnation?

WATCH THE WEEK FOUR VIDEO.

- In times of seeking God's will on particular issues, why do we often get stressed and quickly frustrated? Are our actions and attitudes showing us that we believe it's "up to us" to hear what God is saying? What's the truth?
- In searching for God's instruction, have you found yourself losing sight of God Himself in favor of the things He may give? Why is that such a common temptation? Discuss how you might refocus your efforts to get to know God for Himself and not for the blessings or instruction He could give you.

PRAY FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WOMAN IN YOUR GROUP. ASK GOD TO TEACH YOU MORE ABOUT HIS HEART AND CHARACTER.