

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

In the last study we saw that following Jesus involves *spending time with him* and *learning from him* so that we can *become like him*. Jesus' first disciples spent time with him, asking questions and learning from his teaching. The same is true of his disciples today. It's important to communicate with the Master. Two powerful ways to communicate with him are through the *Word of God* and *Prayer*.

The Word of God

Take a look at 2 Peter 3.1-2. Peter wanted his readers to remember the words of certain men. Who were they, and where can their words be found today? (v. 2)

- According to Romans 15.4, who was the Bible written for? Does this surprise you?

Take a look at 2 Timothy 3.16-17.

- 'All Scripture is...' two things. What are they? (v. 16)
- What does the Bible do to those who are trained by it? (v. 17)

Prayer

Take a look at Matthew 6.6-15.

- How should you pray according to verse 6?
- How should you not pray according to verses 7-8?

This passage is often called *The Lord's Prayer*. In it Jesus teaches his disciples to pray for four things. What are they?

Verse 10 –

Verse 11 –

Verse 12 –

Verse 13 –

- We are taught to pray for it in verse 12. What do we learn about forgiveness in verses 14-15? Does this surprise you?

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Hearing God's Voice

Read 1 Samuel 3.1-21.

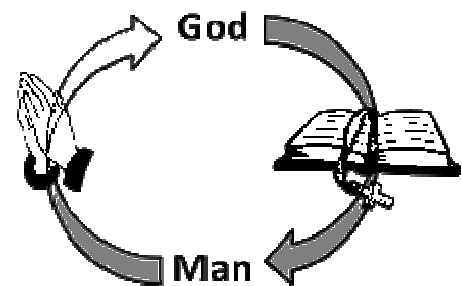
- When the Lord first spoke to him, Samuel did not recognize God's voice. Who did he think he was hearing? Do you think it is possible that God is speaking today and that men simply do not recognize his voice? How might this be happening? (vv. 4-8)
- In verse 7 we see that Samuel "did not yet know the Lord" and that "the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him". Do you think there is a connection between these two statements? Why or why not?
- Look at verses 8-11 again. Who helped Samuel understand that God wanted to speak to him? When did God finally speak his words to Samuel? Can you see any lessons for your own life?
- Why was it important that Samuel share with Eli what the Lord had said to him? (vv. 17-19)
- How did God reveal himself to Samuel? (v. 21)

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Communication is a vital part of any relationship. Listening and speaking to a spiritual God require spiritual means. We listen to God through the Word. We speak to God through prayer.

- Do you have a regular time where you are learning how to meet with God through the Word and Prayer?
- What would it take to make this happen? What are some obstacles that have kept you from spending this time with God in the past?



God is speaking to us through His Word – are we listening? God wants us to speak to Him through prayer – are we speaking?