

Chapter Four: *Learning To Hear*

Getting Connected

Tell your group about a time you took a risk that resulted in a superficial relationship becoming a much deeper relationship.

How would your life be different today if you hadn't taken this risk?

Highlights and Insights

In your own words, how would you *briefly* summarize Chapter 4?

How does it complement what you've been learning so far in this book?

Was there anything that really caught your attention, challenged or confused you in this chapter?

Write down 3-4 words that describe your current experience with and attitude toward the Holy Spirit.

Why did you choose these words?

Biblical Focus

Read John 16:7-12.

What does this passage tell us about *who* the Holy Spirit is?

About *what* He is actively doing?

Give a specific example from your life when you felt the Holy Spirit was actively guiding you into all truth.

If you've never had such an experience, what do you imagine it would be like?

Good News For Those Trying Harder, by Pastor Alan Kraft

Have the members of your group read aloud the following verses: Romans 9:1; 1 Corinthians 8:7; 1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15.

In light of these verses, what role do you believe our conscience plays in the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives, and why?

How can we know whether our conscience is speaking the truth?

The Heart of the Matter

Think of an area where you have experienced repeated spiritual failure in your life.

How has it affected your sense of closeness with God?

What do you usually hear in the midst of failure in this area?

What might the Holy Spirit be wanting you to hear?

In Conclusion...

Share with your group what you believe is the biggest risk for you right now in developing your relationship with the Holy Spirit. How could your life be different a year from now if you take this risk today?

Conclude as a group by silently reflecting upon and then praying aloud in your own words the prayer found on page 87 at the conclusion of this chapter.

What does it typically look and feel like for you when you experience a negative emotion toward someone or something?

When this occurs, how might God want you to respond?

How does David's response in Psalm 73 compare with your thoughts?