

Chapter Four: *Learning to Hear*

For most Christ-followers the idea of having a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit is a foreign concept. So even as we wade into the topic of listening to the Holy Spirit this chapter, for many we realize we need to help them think about their relationship with the Holy Spirit in general. Our prayer is that this chapter and your discussion will help each person to grow in their desire to develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit and listen to His voice above all others.

Getting Connected

Highlights and Insights

Remember to emphasize brevity in responses to the opening questions in this session. Perhaps before answering the question about how this chapter complements what people have been learning so far, you might have people give one-sentence responses about what the book has been teaching them. Before having people share the 3-4 words that would describe their experience with and attitude toward the Holy Spirit, have them write these words down silently on their papers.

Biblical Focus

To “prime the pump” perhaps you can be prepared to give a specific example from your life when you felt the Holy Spirit was actively guiding you into all truth. Or, if you’ve never had such an experience, what do you imagine it would be like. These questions are significant. Since a lot of people haven’t thought a lot about developing their relationship with the Holy Spirit, it’s good to allow people to imagine what it might be like – without feeling dumb or judged.

The Heart of the Matter

Have the group discuss the questions in the shaded blue area after you do the questions in this section as time permits, since negative emotions usually flow out of our response to life’s failures. The goal here is for people to be real/authentic about how God might want to relate to them when they are prone to negative thoughts about others or themselves. If you do this as a group, have someone read Psalm 73 aloud as you have members think how their earlier responses compare to David’s.

In Conclusion ...

In leading your group to pray the prayer on page 87 in their own words, we’d recommend that you have everyone open to this page and pray this prayer silently to God for 2-3 minutes. After this time, prompt people to put this prayer in their own words and pray it aloud.