Knowle Parish Church

Home Group Discussion Questions: 21st Sep 25
Practical Prayer:
Receive – Listening to God
John 16:12-15; Psalm 95.

We are spending September 2025 across all our services, thinking about prayer. What is prayer? How do we pray, both individually and corporately? And what practices help us as we engage in this most vital and life giving activity. These Home Group questions are based around the Sunday morning talks at 9.30am as we consider Rhythm, Relationship, Receiving, and Release. More prayer content can be found from our 6.30 and Wed@10 services too.

Starter: Who would you know only from the sound of their voice?

Read John 16:12-15

1. Jesus says in v12-13 that he has much more to say. Psalm 95:6 says 'Today, if you would only hear his voice'. Do you expect to hear God speaking to you?

2. What are the ways that you as a group have experienced God speaking?

3. Are there other ways that God speaks that you've heard Christians speaking about? What do you make of them?

4. Why do you think God wants to speak to us? What makes us more expectant, or less expectant, of hearing God's voice?

5. According to the John passage, what are some of the areas that the Holy Spirit wants to speak to us about? Have you had any experiences of the Holy Spirit communicating in these areas?

6. One of the main ways in which God speaks is through Scripture. How do you make space to hear God through the Bible? What has been helpful to you over the years? (NB: Mention bible reading notes and apps, using lectio divina, bible study etc)

7. Have you ever heard God speaking through **your circumstances** (an opportunity arising or a door closing); or through **other people** (preaching; prophetic words; listening to God for one another)?

'When mother Teresa was asked what she said to God in prayer she thought for a moment and said 'I don't say anything, I just listen.'

8. What are your top tips for getting to know God's voice? What ways can you encourage one another today?
9. What are your top tips for discerning whether what you hear is from God or another source?

Practical ideas: Listening to God together

10. **Scripture:** Take a passage of Scripture that most of the group already know (maybe a gospel story, or Psalm 23) and use the model of Lectio Divina to listen to God through Scripture. (*See the simple pattern below)*
11. **Prophetic words:** Set a timer for 90sec, pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to you for [x], and then listen as a group for any words, pictures, impressions, scriptures or anything else that comes your way. When the timer sounds, offer the words simply and humbly for that person to discern as they will. Then do the same for the next person.
12. **Silence:** Set a 5 minute timer and just spend time in silence together. Share anything that arises.

Finally – Pray for one another: What has God been doing in the session that you might want to pray together about? Are there any other prayer requests that the group has for the week ahead?

A simple Lectio Divina pattern

Read — A passage of your choice, slowly and prayerfully. Pay special attention to any words or phrases or ideas that jump out to you, or that move you emotionally or deeply resonate.

Reflect — Reread the passage again, slowly. This time, pause over the word(s) or phrase(s) that were highlighted to you during your first reading. Meditate on them. Turn them over in your mind. Savor them.

Respond — Pray your impressions back to God. You can use your own words or simply pray the text directly to God.

Rest — Take a few minutes in silence to breathe deeply and rest in God's loving word to you.

13. Pray for each other to experience God not only as a provider, but as a Father.

1. Pray for one another's next step in prayer (from Q10).
2. Ask if anyone would like accountability in this area - someone to gently check in.
3. Share any other needs and lift them to God together.