WEEK 4 — How God Speaks

January 31 • Hebrews 1:1–2; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

MAIN POINT

God has spoken decisively in Jesus and reliably through Scripture, and His Spirit guides His people in truth.

Aim: Provide a biblical framework for discerning guidance without sign-chasing or untested personal impressions.

Primary NT: Hebrews 1:1–2; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Supporting NT: John 10:27; John 16:13–15; Romans 8:26–27; Acts 13:1–3

Key Doctrine: Revelation, Scripture, illumination, discernment

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

Christians often say "God told me," sometimes claiming contradictory things. How should we determine if God really spoke? When was the last time you were really convinced God spoke to you? What was the result?

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 1:1–2; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17.

- How did God speak in earlier times?
- How do we verify that God is actually speaking to us in a specific circumstance?
- What makes Scripture unique?
- What does Scripture equip believers to do?

Movement 1 — Jesus is God's definitive revelation

Connect: Hebrews 1:1–2

God's character and purposes are decisively revealed in Christ.

Apply: Does this direction agree with Jesus' teaching?

Leader explanation: Hebrews 1:1–2 contrasts God's former speech through the prophets with His climactic revelation in His Son. The passage centers Christ as the fulfillment of God's self-disclosure, not a promise of recurring private revelation in the same manner.

Moses illustration: God speaks directly to Moses; his unique experience is not a required pattern for all Christians (Ex 3:13-22, 4:27-31).

Movement 2 — Scripture is final authority

Connect: 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Scripture teaches, corrects, and equips. Scripture judges our thoughts, not the reverse.

Apply: What does Scripture clearly say?

Leader explanation: Second Timothy 3:16–17 identifies Scripture as God-breathed and useful for teaching, correction, training, and equipping. The Bible is sufficient for faithful discipleship; wise decisions about matters Scripture does not specify call for prayerful judgment and Christian counsel.

Movement 3 — The Spirit guides the church

Connect: John 16:13–15; Acts 13:1–3

Prayer, wisdom, circumstances, and mature counsel can aid discernment under Scripture.

Apply: Seek mature counsel for an important unresolved decision.

Leader explanation: John 16:13–15 originally addresses Jesus' disciples before His departure, emphasizing that the Spirit glorifies Christ and guides into truth. Acts 13:1–3 places discernment in a worshiping church. Avoid presenting circumstances or inner impressions as authorities equal to Scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What distinguishes God's revelation to all and His will/purpose for you?
- Why should Scripture supersede all other forms of God's communication to us?
- What role does the church play in discovering God's personal will?
- Why do signs sometimes feel easier than wisdom?
- Are you afraid of missing God's will?
- When have desires masqueraded as guidance?
- Which decision are you discerning?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- Whose mature counsel can you seek?
- If God speaks through the Holy Spirit using the Bible, prayer, events, and others, where do you need to spend more time this week?
- How are you balancing these avenues in your life?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Father, thank You for Jesus and Your Word. Spirit, reveal truth, correct my desires, and give me courage to obey.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ John 10:22–30; Hebrews 1:1–4; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; John 16:12–15; Acts 13:1–4

DO / PRAY Use SOAP daily: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. For decisions test Scripture first, then prayer, wisdom, and church confirmation.

MEMORY VERSE 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Leader caution: Scripture judges personal impressions. Evaluate guidance through biblical teaching, prayer, wise circumstances, and mature church counsel; do not imply that every internal thought is God's voice.

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: Hebrews 1:1–2; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Hebrews 1:1–2 contrasts God's former speech through the prophets with His climactic revelation in His Son. The passage centers Christ as the fulfillment of God's self-disclosure, not a promise of recurring private revelation in the same manner.

Second Timothy 3:16–17 identifies Scripture as God-breathed and useful for teaching, correction, training, and equipping. The Bible is sufficient for faithful discipleship; wise decisions about matters Scripture does not specify call for prayerful judgment and Christian counsel.

John 16:13–15 originally addresses Jesus' disciples before His departure, emphasizing that the Spirit glorifies Christ and guides into truth. Acts 13:1–3 places discernment in a worshiping church. Avoid presenting circumstances or inner impressions as authorities equal to Scripture.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.