



Week 2 – Group Discussion Questions

JONAH 1:4-6

4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. **5** All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. **6** The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Bible tells us that we, as human beings, are prone to more than one kind of sleep. While we regularly engage in physical sleep, we also have the potential to fall asleep spiritually causing us to overlook the invitation of God to participate in His work of redeeming the lost. As we learned at the start, actions teach us something about the character of those we are watching. In the case of Jonah, his actions demonstrate a heart of bitterness and unforgiveness toward his enemies. In the middle of the storm, Jonah chooses to go to the depths of the ship and fall into a deep deep sleep. In Ephesians 5:14, Paul's word exhorts readers to wake from their sleep to a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.

- 1) As you listened to Eric Mason in the video, what stood out to you in this session?
- 2) How have you seen the connection between the physical and spiritual illustrated in your own life or that of others?
- 3) How does one "wake up" spiritually?

Week 2 – Waking Up To God's Voice: Listening Prayer

God is preparing our church for a significant move of his Spirit, and it will be revealed by people having a greater hunger and thirst after God and his Spirit over anything else this world has to offer. This week we are praying for a greater hunger for God and for Him to fill us. Along with praying every day for five minutes for God to give us greater hunger for Him, we will also be focusing on listening for His voice in our prayer times. Jesus shows us that prayer is all about our relationship and life with the Father. We learn how to relate to the Father in different ways and through different types of prayer. With listening prayer we ask the question: "What is it like to actually hear from God?" We will explore what it is like to hear from the Spirit. In this Practice we allow the Holy Spirit access to our minds, imaginations, which were created and given by God.

In your group this week, Practice this in the group first. Model what it would look like to incorporate this into a daily rhythm.

There are some common things that keep us from hearing from God in prayer. Remember, we are asking God is "wake us up" to His voice, His nudges, His awareness in our daily lives.

1. Start by silencing things in the room that you are in like technology. Ask Jesus to silence all the other voices and distractions in the room. Ask Jesus to also silence the voice of the enemy. This can come through stresses and anxieties of situations you are currently going through.
2. Begin with forgiveness: Psalm 139 is a great prayer to pray: *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* If He reveals anything, confess it and then begin to open yourself to Him and the way He has wired you to encounter Him.
3. Ask the Father to give you a word, picture, Scripture, or a song, feeling or a spiritual gift He may desire to give you. Try not to strive. Don't be discouraged if something doesn't come quickly and don't dismiss anything! Remember that this is a Practice and we are learning to hear and respond to His voice. Write down what you are encountering.
4. Ask the Father some follow up questions:
 - a. What do you want me to know about this?
 - b. Is there anything else you want to say to me?
5. Be ready to share how God spoke to you with your family, spouse, or group. As we listen for His voice, He will continue to fill us with his presence and will stir our passions for Him! He will awaken us to His will and ways.

Example Schedule for Group Time

10 min.	Welcome time
10 min.	Ice Breaker or Relational time (i.e. Sweets and Sours, a game, etc.)
7 min.	Watch the video
20 min.	Discussion Questions
15 min.	The Practice Prayer: Listening Prayer

Weekly videos links and PDF available at gracegathering.com/groups