

Hearing God’s Word

Christian First Principles #4

**OPEN** (5-10 minutes)

Describe one of the best sounds you have ever heard (ocean waves, a baby’s laugh, silence, etc.).

**DIG** (20-25 minutes) **Read Romans 10:14-17 & James 1:22-25**

1. Who is responsible for preaching the gospel to the lost? (See Acts 8:1 & 4, where the Apostles [the preachers?] stayed in Jerusalem while everyone else preached wherever they went).

2. Why does hearing the gospel create a saving faith in some, but not in others (ref. Rom 10:16)?

3. James 1:22 states that people who merely listen to God’s Word, without doing what the Scriptures say, *deceive* themselves. What is their deception?

4. Is the average Christian today more likely to look intently into Scripture and then do what it says, or to merely glance at Scripture and then quickly forget what he/she has read?

**REFLECT** (25-30 minutes)

1. Is it enough for you to be a good person and a good example? Or, must you literally speak the good news of the gospel to others in order to fulfill your responsibility as a Christian?

2. Have you ever attempted to share the gospel with someone? How did it turn out?

3. What are some of your fears about sharing the gospel with others? What do those fears reveal about how much you rely on God for success and how much you rely on yourself?

4. Has the easy access we Americans have to the Bible helped our walk with God or hurt it?

5. Name one person you know personally who needs to hear the good news of the gospel. How can you bring the gospel into that person’s life this week?

6. When did you become serious about applying God’s Word to your life? If you’re not serious about applying God’s Word yet, when do you plan on becoming serious?

7. What part of God’s Word do you find the easiest to do? What part is the hardest for you?

8. Why doesn’t God make it easier for you to be a serious student of His Word?

9. Why does God expect you to do His will, even when He knows it’s challenging?

10. Are you the kind of person who prefers to read and follow directions, or are you the type who prefers to do things your way? How does this impact your walk with God?

11. How does the Holy Spirit help you when you are studying your Bible? How does He help you remember what you studied? How does He help you do what the Bible says to do?

**PRAYER TIME** - Thank God for making the Bible so accessible for you. Ask God to help you become an even more serious student of Scripture. Ask God to help you do what the Bible says.