

## Listening to God

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” Jeremiah 33:3

Our Confidence: God **loves** us and is eager to be in relationship with us and to **speak** to us!

What will we gain as we pursue listening to God?

Clarity--Psalm 73:17

Deeper relationship with God--Psalm 32:8,9

Direction--Isaiah 30:21

Assurance, faith-building promises--Luke 1:45; 2:19

A call to repentance--Heb 4:7

Empowerment/Guidance for ministry--Jer. 42:1-7

What will we need to do to hear God's voice?

Make it a priority: time, stillness, expectation.

Cultivate a humble, learning posture towards God's Word, other people.

Be willing to experiment and even fail.

### Listening Exercise

1. *Sitting down on the inside.* Listening to yourself.

--What am I happy about/grateful for right now?

--What do I regret or feel guilty about?

--What am I worried about?

--What am I excited about in the near future?

Take some time to place all of these thoughts and circumstances, your past, present, and future, in God's hands. Actually look at your hands, fill them with your concerns, and then lift them up to God and let them go.

2. LISTEN. Write what comes to mind as it comes to you. Don't edit as you go.

*Listening for God's Voice:* Ask, "Lord, is there anything you would like to say to me?"

*Listening for Jesus' prayer:* Ask, "Jesus, how are you praying for me right now?"

*Listening to God's Word:*

Goal: to enjoy time with God, and to learn to hear his voice.

Read your passage slowly. Choose a verse (or several) that you like. Look for things you learn about God, for things you like about God.

I like this verse because...