

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS *Following the Cloud, Listening for Trumpets*

INTRO: A 5 year old disobeyed her father and was sent to her room. Minutes later, dad went in to talk with her about what she had done. Teary-eyed, she asked, "Why do we do wrong things, daddy?" "Sometimes the devil tell us to do something wrong," he replied, "and we listen to him. We need to listen to God, instead...right?" To which she sobbed, "But God doesn't talk loud enough!"

In this week's teaching, "Following the Cloud, Listening to Trumpets," we explored what it means to "follow God's presence, responding to His signals." Let's continue the exploration.

Begin with Your HEART

Honestly discuss together these questions. #1 How frequently during a given week do you seek for and look to expect God's direction in your everyday living? *Rate yourself: very frequently --- occasionally --- not very often* What's behind your self-assessment? #2 Why do you think we all struggle with either consulting the Lord enough, or receiving a clear answer?

In the WORD

Some Biblical encouragement:

[1] How did Jesus receive God's direction? *Mark 1:35-38*

What do you think went on in that early morning time?

[take a look at the "night before" for Jesus *1:32-34*] – Take away?

[2] How important was it for Jesus to have his Father's direction? *John 8:28-30*

Do you think Jesus did anything independently of His Father, or apart from the Holy Spirit's empowering?
Take away?

[3] What does Paul say about those who live as "sons of God"? *Romans 8:14*

This verse falls in a paragraph. What kind of "leading" is the Spirit giving us here, according to the surrounding verses? Can you put that "leading" in your own words? [cf. *Galatians 5:16-26*] Take away?

[4] Can God, will God, give us specific direction for our lives? What happened in *Acts 13:1-4a*?

From what you can see, HOW did this specific leading come about? Do you think this could happen, personally, with you? Take away?

My LIFE - our MISSION

Our recent experience may fall short of what happened in Jesus' life, or in the early church. Still, Scripture indicates there is an intimacy of leading and guiding by God's voice and Spirit *that can be very clear and dynamic*.

- What kind of leading do you need in your walk with God these days?
- Are there take-aways above that are helpful for your desire to have God's leading?
- IS GOD MAKING YOUR DAY? [*Mark 1*...spending daily time with God?]
- IS THE SPIRIT FLOWING THROUGH YOU? [*Acts 13*...what about a concentrated time of fasting and prayer?]
- SHARING YOUR TOUGH STUFF? [*Romans 8:12-17*...is there any "flesh" living that's getting in the way of the Spirit clearly leading you?]

Finish together in prayer – praying for God's leading and fruitfulness in our lives, as we seek to be connected, and connect others, in life-defining relationships in our wonderful Savior.