

Conversation Starter

FOR the week of March 9 to 15, 2008

This week's theme: God Is Speaking To You

Reading #1: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Reading #2: Psalm 29

Reading #3: John 10:27

Throughout the Bible we find stories where God is speaking directly to people. For example, at the beginning of 1 Samuel we find God speaking to a boy named Samuel. God had to speak to Samuel four times before Samuel was able to recognize His voice. A priest named Eli eventually discerned that the voice Samuel heard was God's. (See Reading #1) Six times in Psalm 29 we find the phrase "the voice of the Lord". When a biblical author repeats a phrase over and over again, it is done to emphasize a truth ... a point ... an idea ... a concept ... and/or a reality that the author wants the reader to remember. In other words, repetition equals very important information. (See Reading #2) Speaking to people wasn't just something God did in the past, but He continues to speak to His people today primarily through His Word – the Bible. Can God speak to people in other ways? Absolutely, but if He does then what is spoken will always line up with what is written in the Bible. God wants to speak to you. In fact, God is speaking to you. Do you hear Him? Are you able to recognize His voice? Jesus said: *My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.* (Reading #3: John 10:27) If you find it hard to recognize God's voice, then ask Him to show you what's getting in the way of hearing Him.

Thank you, God, for speaking to us. Help us to recognize Your voice in the midst of so many "voices" within our society that want our attention. And then when we hear You, may we be faithful in following You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1. In what ways has God spoken to you through the words of scripture as found in the Bible?
2. How do we become better at discerning the voice of the Lord?
3. When you "hear" God's voice, how does it make you feel?
4. Why is learning to hear God's voice so important?
5. What can get in the way of our ability to hear God's voice?
6. Describe a time when you thought you heard from God then later realized it wasn't Him.