

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What's one of your favorite memories of back to school as a kid, parent, or grandparent?

1. This week is all about options we have as we interact with God when it seems He isn't talking to us. Have you had a season like this, and if so, can you share a little about it? (We're going to give you an opportunity to discuss all the options, so take as long as you need, but don't worry about getting to them all...as a group.)
2. "You can demand to hear from God on your own terms." How do we avoid living and acting like the nation of Israel in [1 Samuel 8:1-9](#)?
3. "You can assume what you want is what you need." How can you make seeking God's desire for you...your desire? [1 Samuel 9:1-3](#)
4. "You can believe you're not important." What do you need to see in yourself that God sees? [1 Samuel 9:20b-21](#)
5. "You can see life change as a moment or a movement." How have you been living in what God did in the past instead of looking forward to what He has for you today? [1 Samuel 10:5-7](#)
6. "You can hide out in someone's baggage." What external labels do you need to tear off to see God's plan for you more clearly? [1 Samuel 10:17-24](#)
7. "You can cave into a culture of criticism." What God-thing have you allowed the criticism of others to derail, and how can you get back on track? [1 Samuel 10:25-27](#)
8. "You can presume 'edited obedience' is actual obedience." What areas of your life need to move from edited to actual obedience? [1 Samuel 13:5-14](#)
9. "You can step forward with an honest 'perhaps...'" What is the "perhaps" thing that you have been hesitant in stepping into? Ready to start moving? [1 Samuel 14:7-10](#)
10. How does the reality of God's pursuit of you ([John 1:14](#), [Romans 5:8](#)) change your thinking about His "silence" in your life?

Day One: [Psalm 31](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 31](#)

Day Three: [Judges 7](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 31](#)

Day Five: [Acts 3](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



Your story matters.

PASTOR TONY MYLES

AUGUST 21, 2022

HONESTLY... SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO HEAR FROM GOD

"Honestly..."

MYRC.CHURCH



"HONESTLY... SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO HEAR FROM GOD"

Pastor Tony Myles

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled." ([Hebrews 3:14-15](#))

"Honestly..." is a word that we tend to use in one of two ways:

- C_____ : to release our _____ or a conviction.
- C_____ : to be proactively _____ about where we're at with a value, a person, or God Himself.

There will be days when you'll feel God is so, so quiet... even when _____. So... what are your options?

You can demand to hear from God on _____.

- [1 Samuel 8:1-9](#)
- We tend to live like "what God can give me" ____ God.

You can assume what you want is what you _____.

- [1 Samuel 9:1-3](#)
- "Honestly... I'm looking for _____"

You can believe you're not _____.

- [1 Samuel 9:20b-21](#)
- Sometimes we think God only wants our _____.

You can see life change as a _____ or a _____.

- [1 Samuel 10:5-7](#)
- Investing "_____ " doesn't negate a need to invest "_____."

You can hide out in _____ baggage.

- [1 Samuel 10:17-24](#)
- The problem with baggage is that it makes us feel like we're on a journey when we may just be _____.

You can cave into a culture of _____.

- [1 Samuel 10:25-27](#)
- Don't be on the giving or receiving end of _____ jackers.

You can presume "_____ obedience" is _____ obedience.

- [1 Samuel 13:5-14](#)
- "It has nothing to do with whether you like God's rules. It's not your Kingdom. If you want to operate by your own rules, then you need to go and create your own world. But as long as you are in God's world, where God has set the rules, you must abide by His rules or you become a rebel against His Kingdom government." - Tony Evans
- Obedience isn't a "plug" to our fun but a _____ to _____.

You can step forward with an honest "_____"

- [1 Samuel 14:7-10](#)
- God is everywhere. It's up to you to give Him righteous (and not reckless) _____.

Honestly...

- God knows we'll chase after sin or spiritual highs, which is why He comes for us _____. ([John 1:14](#), [Romans 5:8](#))
- For the next 24 hours, actually touch base with Him on _____. ([Isaiah 55:6](#), [Matthew 3:2](#))

Don't miss this: "When have I experienced _____?"

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).

*[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



“HONESTLY... SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO HEAR FROM GOD”

Pastor Tony Myles

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled." ([Hebrews 3:14-15](#))

"Honestly..." is a word that we tend to use in one of two ways:

- Confrontation: to release our opinion or a conviction.
- Connection: to be proactively truthful about where we're at with a value, a person, or God Himself.

There will be days when you'll feel God is so, so quiet... even when He absolutely isn't. So... what are your options?

You can demand to hear from God on your own terms.

- [1 Samuel 8:1-9](#)
- We tend to live like "what God can give me" ≥ God.

You can assume what you want is what you need.

- [1 Samuel 9:1-3](#)
- "Honestly... I'm looking for _____"

You can believe you're not important.

- [1 Samuel 9:20b-21](#)
- Sometimes we think God only wants our voicemail.

You can see life change as a moment or a movement.

- [1 Samuel 10:5-7](#)
- Investing "yesterday" doesn't negate a need to invest "today."

You can hide out in someone's baggage.

- [1 Samuel 10:17-24](#)
- The problem with baggage is that it makes us feel like we're on a journey when we may just be stuck with labels.

You can cave into a culture of criticism.

- [1 Samuel 10:25-27](#)
- Don't be on the giving or receiving end of swagger jackers.

You can presume "edited obedience" is actual obedience

- [1 Samuel 13:5-14](#)
- "It has nothing to do with whether you like God's rules. It's not your Kingdom. If you want to operate by your own rules, then you need to go and create your own world. But as long as you are in God's world, where God has set the rules, you must abide by His rules or you become a rebel against His Kingdom government." - Tony Evans
- Obedience isn't a "plug" to our fun but a path to wholeness.

You can step forward with an honest "perhaps..."

- [1 Samuel 14:7-10](#)
- God is everywhere. It's up to you to give Him righteous (and not reckless) access points.

Honestly...

- God knows we'll chase after sin or spiritual highs, which is why He comes for us first. ([John 1:14](#), [Romans 5:8](#))
- For the next 24 hours, actually touch base with Him on everything. ([Isaiah 55:6](#), [Matthew 3:2](#))

Don't miss this: "When have I experienced _____?"

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).

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