



PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

LESSON 3-2: Healthy You, Healthy Company Hearing God in your Work

“God, at the end of the day, wants to spend more time with us.”

- *Workmatters.org, Diana Thompson, Sam’s Club*

“God has amazing thoughts about us and our business, which he wants to share with us!”

- *Craig Avery*

WELCOME & PRAYER

PREVIOUS LESSON FOLLOW UP

In the previous lesson’s weekly application, you were asked to write down two situations where better understanding of yourself shaped your interactions with co-workers. Share one of those situations briefly.

Caution: MBTI is a simple theoretical framework for evaluating our personality tendencies. We all operate in each of the 16 categories, but we have some preference for how we respond in different situations. This is a tool to give you an insight into who you are and how to relate with others. It is not absolute. God desires us to exhibit and grow in the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23). We should never use our personality type as an excuse to be all that God has called us to be.

KICK OFF QUESTION

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how to see and experience God in your workplace through everyday activities including successes and failures.

- Identify a challenge you currently face in your business (financial, HR, customer issue, marketing, operations, etc.). How are you seeking God’s input on this issue?

PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think [about business]. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Emphasis Added) Romans 12:2 (NLT).

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
Psalm 139:17 (ESV)





BIG PICTURE

If we want to hear from God about your work or business:

- We must study and learn. There is no substitute or short cut for studying your Bible.
- We must have life experiences with God. Sometimes we learn more through life challenges of disappointments and failures than we do success.
- We need to learn how to pray/talk with Him. He is talking to you. Are you listening?

HEARING FROM GOD - Exercise

Write in your Myers-Briggs assessment (MBTI) from Lesson 3-1: _____. Review your MBTI from Lesson 3-1. (<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>)

Each of us may hear from God in different ways. Our personality style gives us certain defaults in how we act in our business and, likewise, how we hear from God. We typically make decisions and lead our businesses based on our own education, background, training and experiences, without seeking His guidance.

The point of this lesson is that we need to engage Him in study, prayer, worship, etc., so that we can hear His voice regularly, and especially in those situations where our personality may limit our ability to hear His voice and what He is saying to us.

We learn to recognize the voice of God by 1) by studying and learning Scripture, 2) life experiences with God, and 3) praying and talking with God regularly. Like most things, we must train ourselves to hear God's voice in order to get better at it. It is difficult to hear His voice when we are not having constant communication with Him. The best way to hear from God is to be in constant communication with Him.

How do you hear from God in your personal life? In your work? Please rank each as follows: (1-never, 2-sometimes, 3-often). It is normal that you would only rank a few of these high.



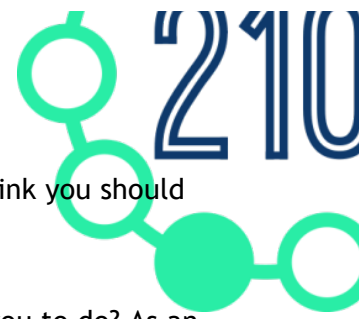
<u>Method of Hearing from God</u>	<u>In your personal life</u>	<u>In your work</u>
Prayer/direct conversation		
Study Scripture -		
Holy Spirit		
Journaling -		
Worship		
Circumstances		
Conversation with others (seeking wisdom)		
Teaching		
Visions/Dreams		
Nature		
Acts		
Others		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from this exercise about how you hear from God?

2. How does your personality style (your MBTI) affect the way you typically communicate to God and how you hear His voice? Reread your MBTI description if necessary.

3. What are some of the challenges about your personality style in the ways you talk to and hear from God? (For example, TJs may be quick to make decisions without seeking God’s voice; FPs may engage their emotions, instead of seeking God’s voice; an “I” may not want to make a decision in a meeting or be exhausted after a long meeting and may not seek God’s voice before making a decision).
 - a. Please give one or two personal examples.



4. Of the issues you identified in the kickoff question, which one do you think you should seek God's guidance? How might you do that?
5. How do you know the "idea" or "thought" you have is what God wants you to do? As an illustration, you feel God has led you to start a business. How do you know this is His prompting or just something generated in your mind?

GOING DEEPER

1. God wants to "partner" with us vocationally. John 15:1-10 - "I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from me, you can do nothing."
2. He cares deeply about the vocational component of our lives. He wants us to engage Him, by bringing Him into this realm of our lives and not leave Him "outside the room" with an attitude of "I can handle this on my own, God" or the thought that God is not interested in this part of my life.
3. He wants to engage us, speak to us, and provide wisdom we need. We just need to ask, believe, listen and wait. We can trust His "leadership" in every area of our life. Our part is to engage Him.
4. The attachment is an excellent resource for you to review. Use this as a first step in getting started hearing from God or when you have encountered an event that shakes your faith. As you learn to hear from Him, other manners of hearing from Him should develop.

WEEKLY APPLICATION

Review the current issues and relationships identified during the Discussion Questions where you need God's guidance. Search scripture and pray about these daily for the next two weeks. Be prepared to report to your group what you hear from God.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Your Personality and the Spiritual Life, Understanding Who You are can Deepen Your Relationship with God by Reginald Johnson (Asbury Theological Seminary) This is an excellent resource.
2. Gabe Lions - The One Thing that Could Change the Marketplace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TPbckyOgiU>
3. Institute for Faith Work and Economics Blog: [Christians in Business-The Triple Bottom Line Through a Biblical Lens](#)
4. Nathan Sheets, president and Chief Steward, Nature Nate's Honey Co., shares how he has shaped his business to follow God's plan and purpose for his team and operations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFz8oBiPke4&feature=youtu.be>





ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

- John 13:34
- Isaiah 40:31
- John 15: 1-17
- 1 Corinthians 13
- James 1:5-6



How Personality Type Influences Spiritual Life

	Gifts	Infirmities	Nurture	Growth Needs
Energizers ESTP ESFP	Action Altruism Adaptability Acceptance Artistry appreciation	Allurement Seduction Brinkmanship Bravado Expediency Opportunism	Physical spirituality Service Praying our experiences	Reflection Faithfulness
Stabilizers ISTJ ISFJ	Thoroughness Persistence Practicality Prudence Methodicalness Dependability Common sense	Self-absorption Hiddenness Suspicion Prudishness Idolatry Perfectionism	Quietness Structured Spiritual continuity	Self-assurance Playfulness Receptivity Spontaneity
Crusaders ENFP ENTP	Ingenuity Optimism Inspiration Creativity Originality Insight Perceptivity	Lack of focus Independence Inconsistency Unfaithfulness	Vow of stability Listening prayer Image/symbol	Christ-dependence Reflection Sacrament of present moment
Renewers INFJ INTJ	Insight Vision Inspiration Motivation Possibility	Loneliness Restlessness Indulgence Overextendedness	Imaging prayer Symbol Creative writing	Trust intuition Sharing insights Awareness Self-discipline Balanced life
Organizers ESTJ ENTJ	Leadership Structure Goal-direction Decisiveness Objectivity Formulas	Tunnel vision Impersonality	Action Mental prayer Written prayer Rule of life	Practice listening Seek feedback Reflection Flexibility Surrender of gifts
Analyzers ISTP INTP	Understanding Reasoning Commitment to justice reservedness	Insensitivity Laziness Moodiness	Mental prayer Breath prayer mediation	Feeling Giving leadership Empathy
Encouragers ESFJ ENFJ	Warmth Hospitality Loyalty Idealism Practicality Responsibility	Hypersensitivity Unreflectiveness Avoid of unpleasantness	Community Compassion Affective prayer Personalizing worship space	Realism Kindness of self Openness to critique
Enhancers ISFP INFP	Mission Purpose Warmth Quite reserve Positivity Hopefulness Independence Flexibility Openness	Feelings of inadequacy Resistance to reason Reluctance to share Perfectionism	Personalizing Scripture Spiritual journal Listening prayer	Christ-consciousness Receptivity to grace Cultivate relationships