



**May 25-26, 2024**

### **Break the Ice**

Modern GPS's cannot always be trusted. Consider the following stories:

- A few years ago, a 23-year-old woman was navigating her car through the Ontario town of Tobermory. She was driving in unfamiliar territory so she was constantly looking at her GPS. In fact, she was looking at her GPS so intently that she didn't notice that her car was headed straight for Georgian Bay. She drove down a boat ramp and straight into freezing water. Thankfully, she was able to climb out and swim to shore, as her car sank under the water.
- In Manhattan, one man followed his GPS into a park where his car got stuck on a staircase.
- In Europe, a 67-year-old Belgian woman was led astray by her GPS. She intended to make a 90-mile drive to Brussels into a daylong trip into Germany and beyond. Rather than relying on her common sense when she noticed all the street signs were in Croatian, she kept on driving!

While we may laugh at these stories, we all have been guilty of not paying attention to what's around us because we are too focused on paying attention to something else.

Ask your group to share any personal stories of wrong focus getting you into problems...

### **Up**

**Read Hebrews 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3 with your group.** The written Word of God (the Bible) reveals to us the living Word of God — Jesus. If it wasn't for the Bible then we wouldn't know about Jesus, what He did, and who He is. God reveals Jesus to us and Jesus reveals the nature of God. He speaks to us through His Word and we are guided by the Holy Spirit in applying His Word to our lives.

Unfortunately, we often become distracted by other voices in our lives. Rather than listening to His Word, we listen to the words of others, including our own self talk.

Ask the group: How do other voices lead us to wrong (or less than God's best) destinations?

## **In**

**Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.** One of the most valuable gifts God gives us is the gift of friendships. Our friends comfort us with their presence and words. But there are sometimes when their words become the chief and only ones we listen to. In fact, they can replace God's words to us.

Can you think of a time when a well-intentioned friend gave you poor advice?

What goes into discerning the friends you are more willing to accept advice from?

How can we grow as a friend, especially in times where advice is needed?

**Read Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16.** While God surely speaks through our friends, we must always measure what they say against God's Word. God's Word is fully capable to completely expose our intentions and desires. Therefore, we can trust His Word and the Holy Spirit to guide us in all truth and how to rightly live.

## **IV. Out**

**Read Exodus 33:14-17.** Another way God guides us is through His presence. It is this presence that leads us day-by-day, step-by-step. God's presence provides us with confidence to press forward and as an anchor that secures us during tumultuous times.

How has God's presence given you direction, confidence, and security?

How can you communicate the comforting assurance of God's presence to those who do not know Him?

## **V. Prayer**

Conclude your group time in prayer by praying the following:

- Ask God to reveal how you may be listening to other voices besides His voice. Make a recommitment to hear His voice supremely above the voices of others.
- Ask God to reveal what He wants to you know. Tell Him, "I am your servant and I am ready to obey. Just speak to me and I will listen and obey."
- Ask God to reveal unbelievers in your life that you can speak to about the assurance of God's presence.