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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - What is God Teaching Me?

July 6, 2025

In a world that runs loud and fast, quiet trust can feel countercultural. It may even feel impossible. But God isn't always found in the thunder or the fire. Sometimes, he comes in a whisper.

Elijah experienced this firsthand in 1 Kings 19. God wasn't in the mighty wind, the earthquake, or the fire; instead, he found his voice in the gentle whisper that followed.

God teaches us through the quiet spaces we make for him in our lives. Not because he is absent from the storms or the chaos that can surround us, but because he wants to slow our hearts enough to hear him. Trust is built in the stillness, and worship deepens in the waiting.

Maybe God is asking you to quiet the noise - internally, culturally, and digitally. It could look like turning off your notifications and waking up 15 minutes earlier to sit in stillness and pray without an agenda. It could look like choosing Scripture before scrolling.

Make space for quiet reflection this week. Ask God to meet you there, and then ... listen.

Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's your favorite way to unwind or find peace when life feels chaotic?

How can we encourage one another to make space for quiet trust and reflection in a world that values noise, productivity, and busyness?

Read 1 Kings 19:9-13 and Reflect: What does how God spoke to Elijah reveal about how God communicates? Why do you think God sometimes chooses to speak softly rather than powerfully?

What would it take for you to begin "quieting the noise" (internal, cultural, or digital) that tends to drown out God's voice in your life?

Think of a time when God met you in silence or stillness. What did that experience teach you about trust and worship?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the ways you speak to me. I trust that you are always here with me. I'm thankful you know my heart craves silence even when my mind hasn't fully let go of the noise I face in this chaotic world. I come to you humbly, continually seeking your voice. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Psalms 85:8**

I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways.

Sacred Silent Moments

July 7, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Hebrews 1

God is the *devouring fire* (Hebrews 12:29). He's also the Spirit (John 4:24), love (1 John 4:8), and a whisper. From his dramatic displays of power to the quieter ones, we must learn to recognize him in all of our moments.

When Elijah only heard the noise of his fears, God responded with a gentle whisper.

1 Kings 19:11-12

"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain.... but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.

I once heard that when God created what was good, the possibility of evil was simultaneously created. It was man who took the *possibility* of evil and made it a *reality* in our lives. The reality of the world we've fashioned, one that offers loud and often evil "noises," can make us yearn for the voice of our heavenly Father. Oh, how powerful his whispers are in the midst of chaos!

Learning to recognize God's voice develops as we prioritize time with him (Psalm 86:11). Over time, as my maturity of heart, spirit, and soul increased in relationship with him, I learned to recognize the difference between the noises of this world and God's voice. Like many of us, it's easier to hear in the joyful and praiseworthy

moments, but eventually, I could recognize him in the storms, too.

Now, when I face challenges, I don't feel the pain I used to - I no longer hurt without hope. I know in those moments I can hear him if I expectantly listen. In the silence, he tells us he loves us and always will. It is in these powerful and sacred silent moments with God that we find ourselves no longer lost, but safely immersed in the midst of his content and character.

God never moves - we do. He remains right there with us in the muck and the mire. He is the gentle whisper in the chaos ... the calm, patiently waiting for us to notice. And when we do, we discover he's been near all along - quietly inviting us to trust, listen for him, and follow his lead.

Questions:

If you are currently facing a challenge, do you recognize the presence of God in the midst of it?

In the silent moments, can you hear his whispers? What is he saying to you? Does it coincide with his Word?

Next Steps:

Set aside time every day this month to solely study God's character through his Word so you can recognize God's truth while living in the midst of the lies and evil of this world.

Prayer:

Father God, you are goodness and justice. All glory, honor, and praise go to you. You are the only King and Lord over my life. You are my Creator and my Abba. Holy is your name. I love you above all and everyone else. You are righteous, my sanctifier, my healer, my victor, my shepherd, my peace, my joy, and my provider. Through your gifts, I am never wanting for anything. I give you all of me to use for your purpose today and every day. Please help me to recognize you in the midst of the brokenness and in the sacred silent moments when you whisper your loving words to me. Help me to know and understand your character. Help me to listen carefully to what you are saying. Speak peace into my life and give me wisdom so I can apply what you teach me every day, obeying and trusting you in all things and under all circumstances. I pray in your Son's most holy name, amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Psalm 85:8**

I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways.

This post was written by Linda Repka, a Whitehouse attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

The Ministry of Solitude

July 8, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Hebrews 2

The apostle Mark paints a vivid picture of Jesus's early ministry – It was fast-paced and full of crowds and miracles. He was in high demand. Yet, amid the pressing needs of the people, Jesus made solitude a priority.

Mark 1:35

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

This verse offers a glimpse into his rhythm, a divine pattern of serving others and seeking the Father. The constant demands around him didn't drive Jesus. He was led by a deeper need to remain connected to the source of his strength. We should yearn for this same rhythm, one that roots us in God's presence before we engage with the pressures of the world. It's a rhythm that reminds us our effectiveness doesn't come from constant activity but from consistent intimacy with our heavenly Father.

Jesus intentionally stepped away from the work of healing to be alone with the Father. If Jesus required time in quiet communion with God, how much more do we need it? His example teaches us that spiritual renewal isn't found in doing more, but in being with God.

I am often in a season of life that feels non-stop, with work deadlines, ministry commitments, and caring for my family. I tell myself I am doing it all for God, but the truth is, I get too busy to be with God. The enemy doesn't tempt me with obvious sin; he keeps me busy. Too busy to pray. Too busy to reflect. Too busy to hear from God. Over time, my peace and joy slip away, replaced with unrest, stress, and a deep

spiritual ache. That distance doesn't happen all at once; it creeps in subtly, masked as productivity. But in reality, it is a distraction. And it is effective.

The enemy knows that if he can't pull us into blatant rebellion, he'll settle for disconnection. He'll keep our calendars full and our hearts empty. But Jesus shows us another way, choosing stillness, creating space, and prioritizing intimacy with the Father.

Solitude is about intentional presence with God. In these quiet moments, we hear his whisper, feel his comfort, and gain clarity for our next steps. Just as Jesus rose early to find space before the world came calling, we too can seek those sacred spaces in our day.

Questions:

What noise in your life is keeping you from hearing God?

When was the last time you intentionally chose solitude to connect with the Lord?

How can you create a rhythm of prayer and solitude in your daily routine?

Next Steps:

Set aside 15 minutes today to find a quiet space, without your phone, music, or distractions, and simply be with God in prayer.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the example of Jesus, who prioritized time with you even in the busiest seasons. Help me quiet the noise in my life and seek you with intention. Teach me to value stillness, to find renewal in your presence, and to hear your voice more clearly. Draw me closer as I make space for you today. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Psalm 85:8

I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways.

This post was written by Monique Myers, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

God Whispers Louder Than You Think

July 9, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Hebrews 3

I wake up each morning with “Hey There Delilah,” “Dial My Heart,” or a thousand other possible songs in my head. I pause to thank God for bringing me through the night, and after hearing noises that indicate sleep, I thank him for doing the same for Erica. Then, I quietly sing whatever song is playing in my head. Today, it was “Christmas in Hollis” by Run-D.M.C. The routine is a must, or the song repeats throughout the day.

If you ever ask what I’m thinking about, and I say, “nothing,” feel free to call me out, because my mind runs nonstop. Sometimes, it’s a word or smell that triggers a memory, perhaps I’m working on creating a character, or rewriting a paragraph in my head. In rare moments of randomness, I might wonder if I’ll ever get a pair of those shoes from *Back to the Future, Part II*. Occasionally, more thought-provoking scenarios riddle my mind.

I’ll dive into a project that consumes too much time by dissecting every sentence and second-guessing the approach, delivery, and tone. I take moments to educate others and wonder if it was more offensive than helpful. Was it my need to be right or an opportunity to offer growth? My inner dialogue becomes muddled, turning my mind into a maze of mistrust. Thankfully, focusing on God during my chaos eliminates much of the stress.

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.

Even if your mind runs 100 miles per second, God can slow down to your speed to give you time to catch up to what he’s trying to tell you. Don’t be negative with your words. Free your mind of clutter. You’ll have time if you make time for God. He whispers confidence that only you can hear, so slow your mind to focus on God’s thoughts for you.

Be still and trust God’s intentions for your life. Believe in who you are with God instead of listening to who you are by yourself. If the thoughts you create are too loud, then quiet the noise around you. Take a timeout from social media, turn your TV off, and go for a walk without anything in your ears. Experience God’s whisper in silence. It’s always louder than you think.

Questions:

How do you connect with God in restless times? What does it mean for you to be still?

Next Steps:

Schedule time to experience God in meditation, prayer, and walks. Limit your distractions by going device-free while growing closer to God.

Prayer:

I want to know who I am in you, God. I want to see myself as you envision me as your child. I want to walk with the knowledge of being loved by the one who knew me before I thought I knew myself. I want your whispers to drown out my thoughts. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Psalm 85:8**

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This post was written by Jaron Camp, a Findlay attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Whispers in the Wait

July 10, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Hebrews 4

God doesn't always shout above the noise. Sometimes, he waits for us to quiet down and lean in.

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah stood on a mountain, desperate to hear from God. But the Lord wasn't in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. He came in a gentle whisper. Elijah had to quiet his fears and still his soul to truly hear God's voice.

Psalm 62:5-6

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.

Sometimes, God teaches us not through answers but through waiting. You may have moments where you are frustrated because you feel like you cannot hear him, but he is with you and promises not to leave you or abandon you (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Quiet trust is powerful worship. It says, God, you are enough, even in the silence.

Make space to worship God while you wait to hear him, perhaps through a song, a journal prayer, or simply sitting in his presence without distractions.

You may be surprised by what you hear when your heart is quiet enough to listen.

Psalm 145:17-18

The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.

Questions:

Can you recall a time when God felt silent? How did you respond then, and what might you do differently now?

Next Steps:

This week, set aside 10 minutes each day for quiet stillness. No music. No screens. Just you and God. Start that time with a simple prayer: "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."

Prayer:

Father God, I'm here, waiting in your presence, quieting the noise and listening. My heart is ready and open to receive whatever you have for me today. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Psalm 85:8

I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways.

This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.

Friday: Prayer

July 11, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Hebrews 5

Are you intimidated by the idea of prayer? Do you skip it all together out of fear of doing something "wrong"? Here's the good news - prayer doesn't have to be complicated, and you don't have to be perfect to do it.

So, what is prayer anyway? Prayer is the opportunity to come into God's presence. It's our opportunity to communicate with the God of the universe - the God who set the earth on its foundation. Amazingly, he wants to talk to us! Although it's tempting to think we must have it together before approaching God in prayer, or must use the perfect words, loving and trusting the Father is all that's needed.

As with anything new, prayer takes practice, but like most things, we "get it together by going," so just begin. The more you do it, the easier it will become. The habit of prayer will be built the longer you journey as a follower of Christ.

If you aren't quite sure where to start, don't be embarrassed. The disciples themselves asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-4).

Luke 11:1 NIV

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus gave them (and us!) The Lord's Prayer as a template. There are also acronyms such as P.R.A.Y (praise, repent, ask, yield) that you can use to structure your prayers in the beginning.

Whichever you choose, as you embark on the spiritual practice of prayer, keep it simple. Your language doesn't need to be flowery or religious. Focus on connecting with God rather than merely requesting things as if he's a heavenly vending machine. While he definitely wants you to ask for what you need (Luke 11:5-13), he wants a relationship with you even more. So, be sure to listen instead of just asking.

Questions:

How do you view prayer?

Next Steps:

Put a reminder in your phone and use The Lord's Prayer below, or the P.R.A.Y. acronym, to begin building a daily prayer habit

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Psalms 85:8

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Reflections - What is God Teaching Me

July 12, 2025

In the middle of life's noise, God invites us to a quiet place. Not necessarily a physical location, but a place where we can be with him, quietly in conversation and prayer. Jesus lived by this example and often withdrew to the wilderness to quiet the noise around him (Luke 5:16).

Here, he was able to eliminate the distractions and connect with God.

When we pause, pray, and listen, we begin to sense his voice through peace, joy, and gentleness, not volume. We can release our worries and receive more of Him by spending time with Him in quietness as well.

As you reflect on quieting the noise, I encourage you to slow down and find your version of a wilderness to connect with God. It can be as simple as shutting the door behind you. (Matthew 6:6) Make space to be with him and listen.

Let Psalm 85:8, our current memory verse, be your guide: "I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people."

He's always near us. We simply need to make room to notice.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, at this moment, I pause and do my best to quiet the noise around and within me. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for always listening. As I lay down my fears and distractions, I choose to hold tightly to the peace you so graciously offer. Meet me here with your presence, and let your voice lead me forward. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Psalm 85:8

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