

LIVING
IT OUT



DAILY
DEVO
TION
AL



CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - What is God Teaching Me?

June 29, 2025

This week, we're leaning into a simple but powerful idea: God is ready to speak to us; we just have to notice.

Exodus 3:2-3

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

In amazement, Moses said, "I must go see it." Sometimes, God shows up in big, blazing ways. Other times, it's more subtle - a whisper, a timely conversation with a loved one, or a gentle nudge based on circumstance. But he always invites us to slow down and see what he's doing.

As you head into the week, ask yourself:

What might God be doing right in front of me that I'm too busy to see?

Stay open. Stay expectant. Don't rush past the burning bushes in your own life.

This week in the LivingItOut, we'll unpack how to notice when God speaks to us. But for now, prepare your heart to be expectant, observant, and responsive.

Discussion Questions:

Ice breaker: What's the most unexpected or amazing thing you've ever seen in nature? What made you stop and take notice?

What are some ways our church helps people *notice* where God might be at work? How could we grow in this?

Read and Reflect: Exodus 3:1-4 What stands out about Moses' response to the burning bush? Why do you think God waited for Moses to notice before speaking?

Have you ever had a moment where you felt like God was trying to get your attention through something ordinary or unexpected? What happened?

Reflect and Respond: What's one distraction you can set aside this week to help you slow down and notice God more clearly? How will you create space to listen?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as I look ahead to this week, the prayer in my heart reflects the words you gave me in Psalm 85:8. Lord, I listen carefully to what you are saying. My heart is open to you, and I desire nothing more than to notice when you speak. 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.

Grow Your Notice

June 30, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 2

Have you ever searched for your sunglasses, only to realize they were on your head the whole time? Sometimes, the things we need are already *with* us, we've just forgotten about them.

The same is true of God.

This week's message reminded us of a powerful truth: God is always ready to speak to those who are noticing. He's not withholding his presence or wisdom. But if we're not looking for him, we'll miss what he's doing in us.

Jeremiah 29:12–13

"In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

This beautiful promise came from the prophet Jeremiah in a letter to the Jewish exiles in Babylon around 597–587 BC. They had been ripped from their homes and were living in a foreign land, grieving their losses and questioning God's plan. Jeremiah's letter was God's reassurance to his people, no matter what they would endure while in exile: *"I'm not done with you. I'm still listening. And if you truly seek me, you'll find me, even here."*

With this context, we know that God wasn't speaking to people who had everything going right. He was speaking to those in the middle of waiting, loss, and uncertainty. Sound familiar?

Like the Israelites, we're invited into this same promise today. But notice the condition - it requires our attention. Not a casual glance, but a focused pursuit. A posture of noticing.

There was a season in my life when I desperately needed direction. I prayed, but it felt like God was silent. Eventually, I started writing down moments of peace and gratitude, verses that stood out, and conversations that stirred my heart. That simple act of paying attention, of *growing my notice*, helped me realize God was speaking all along. I just hadn't noticed.

Growing your notice means slowing down, being curious, and inviting God into the ordinary. It might look like starting your day with a question: "*God, what are you teaching me today?*" It might mean paying closer attention to a conversation, a verse, or even a struggle that keeps resurfacing. God often speaks through the things we overlook.

Ask him to help you grow your notice. When you start looking for him, you'll see his fingerprints everywhere.

And when you do, don't be surprised if you find yourself saying, "*Only God could line things up like that.*"

Questions:

In what areas of your life have you felt like God has been silent?

Could he be speaking in ways you haven't noticed yet?

What are some ordinary moments from this past week where you may have overlooked his presence?

Next Steps:

Start a "Noticing Journal" this week. Each day, write down:

1. a moment of peace or gratitude,
2. a verse or phrase that stands out, and
3. a conversation that moved your heart.

At the end of the week, read through your notes and ask: *Where did I see God?* Then do a weekly recap of all the places you noticed his presence.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your constant presence, even when I don't see it. Help me to slow down, to listen, and to notice the ways you're moving in my life. Give me eyes to see your hand in the ordinary and a heart that seeks you wholeheartedly. Grow my awareness, so I don't miss the whispers of your love and direction. 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.

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

Speak, Lord

July 1, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 3

As a young kid, it drove me crazy when my parents repeated the same information over and over. Whether it was telling me and my siblings to get in the car or reminding us of the instructions for the fifth time in a row, it was boring, and I felt like they didn't trust me.

Now that I regularly volunteer with preschoolers, I understand.

No matter how often I tell them to use *walking* feet, pick up dropped crackers, and keep their hands to themselves, the kids still race around the room, grind crumbs into the carpet, and wrestle during the Bible lesson. I love all of those preschoolers, but they have demonstrated how hard it is to follow instructions. Until I see signs that they are actually listening, I'll keep repeating our rules, for as long as it takes.

In the Bible, there is a story about God reaching out to a boy, probably about twelve, named Samuel. Three times, God called out to Samuel, and each time, Samuel mistook God for Eli, the priest.

1 Samuel 3:8-9

So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

We can struggle to recognize God's voice when we aren't expecting it. Whether we doubt that God would be interested in talking to us, mistake him for the voices of people in our lives, or aren't interested in what he has to say, these beliefs can get in the way of receiving God's message.

Even if you have been overlooking or intentionally ignoring what God is telling you, he isn't giving up on you. As he did with Samuel, or as any good teacher or parent would do with young children, God continues to reach out. He pesters us until we can no longer deny his voice, giving us the Holy Spirit to help us through our confusion.

We might not understand or have complete clarity, but when we expect God to answer, it allows us to invite him in and say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Questions:

Is there anything you believe God might be trying to tell you? How can you open your heart this week to receive his message?

Next Steps:

Take time to pray and be alone with God. This might be in your car on the way to work, while on a walk, drinking your coffee in the morning, or right before bed, whenever you have a moment between you and God. Invite him into your space, and ask him where he is guiding you. If you have your hands available, write down what you hear, or send it to yourself in a text.

Prayer:

Father, I'm sorry for all the times I've been distracted or have overlooked or ignored your voice. Right now, I am choosing to be still. Please, come into my heart. Open my ears to hear your words, and give me understanding to know what you mean. I believe that you are here with me, that you love me more than I can imagine, and that you have an incredible plan for my life. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. 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.

This post was written by Lydia Snyder, a South attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Listen & Follow

July 2, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 4

It would be nice if God spoke to us in the clear, audible voice he used with Samuel, Moses, and some of the other Old Testament prophets. Certainly, if God spoke to us like that we would be sure to respond, right?

Unfortunately, I think we give ourselves more credit than we deserve. God speaks just as clearly today, but we either don't pay attention or we choose to ignore or misunderstand the message. Amidst the noise of the world, God's voice can get drowned out.

We must learn to be observant, to distinguish the voice or leadings of God from those voices around us. But how?

When disputing with the religious leaders, Jesus said that only true followers could hear his voice. The Pharisees, despite all of their religious fervor, were not true followers because they did not listen to Jesus and failed to follow him.

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

The voice of God is usually not loud. As followers of Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit working inside of us, gently nudging us to open our hearts and eyes.

For example, I recently felt the Holy Spirit convicting me of a sinful attitude I was harboring. He reminded me that, though I had been sinned against, I should not hold that bitterness in my heart.

How did I know this was the Holy Spirit? Because he spoke to me about my actions, not theirs. I can't change what the other person did, but I can change how I allow that hurt to grow in my heart.

God's Spirit is not here to condemn you - Christ took your punishment on the cross. The Holy Spirit reveals our sin so that we may become more like Jesus.

It is often in the stillness of prayer or during quiet moments in Scripture that we hear his voice. When we come with expectation and openness to his leading, we place ourselves in a posture of humility – one that allows the Holy Spirit to move freely in our hearts.

Questions:

What spiritual practices do you regularly engage in to hear from God? Have you ever experienced the leading of the Holy Spirit? Did you obey that voice?

Next Steps:

Intentionally set aside time every day (even 5 minutes is a good place to start) to turn off the noises around you and be still before the Lord. Bring your struggles to the Lord, and pray that he will speak to your spirit.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for speaking to your people. Thank you for the privilege of hearing your voice. Help me to be still before you and distinguish between the voices of the world, my own voice, and yours. Give me the courage to obey. Convict me of areas in which I am sinning against you. Help me become more like you. 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.

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

Trust and Linger

July 3, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 5

Over the last several months, I have experienced time in the wilderness.

In the Bible, the wilderness isn't just a place of isolation - it's a period of testing, spiritual growth, hardship, and learning to rely on God instead of ourselves.

Most people want to rush through the wilderness to get it over with, but these seasons are opportunities to grow closer to God. Two words really stuck out to me during my own time in the wilderness: TRUST and LINGER.

Trust is believing in the truths and amazing power of God and choosing to rely on him in all situations. To linger means spending unhurried time in the presence of God - thinking about who he is, what he's done, and reflecting on his Word. It's sitting quietly in his presence and allowing him to shape our hearts. The more we do this, the more thankful we become.

As we trust in God and linger in his presence, he transforms us and opens our eyes to how much he loves us. Our gratitude grows as we realize all he has done for us. In response, we choose to obey God because of our deep love for him.

In John 14:15 Jesus says, "If you love me, obey my commandments."

Obedience shows our faith and trust in God. Obedience says, "God, your way is better than my way. I trust you and believe you want what's best for me."

God gave us laws and commands because he knows what is best for us. His laws don't lead to bondage; they lead to freedom. He wants us to have the joyful and abundant life that is only available to us when we listen to him and respond in faith.

James 1:22

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise you are fooling yourselves.

Our God is so amazing and loving. True and lasting transformation is possible when we slow down, listen to him, and respond to what he says. It won't always be easy, but it will always be worth it.

Discussion Questions:

Why is obedience to God so important?

How does obeying God show that you trust him?

How has God transformed your life?

Next Steps:

Spend time lingering in God's Word. Write down what you hear him telling you, and respond. Whether this means making a decision, changing your current lifestyle, or taking a deep breath in the chaos of life, trust that God has the best plan for you.

If you are struggling to respond to what God says, join a Group! Surround yourself with people who can encourage and hold you accountable.

Prayer:

God, I love you so much. Thank you for transforming me and guiding me through the wilderness. It can be a hard journey, but you are always with me. I trust you. Jesus said, "if you love me obey my commandments" (John 14:15). I do love you. Help me to listen and obey at all times. You are such a good Father! I praise and 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 Marsha Raymond, an Oregon attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

No Limits

July 4, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Galatians 6**Ephesians 3:20**

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

When I read the word "infinite" in this verse, my mind instantly recalls a trip to the Grand Canyon.

While the canyon during the day was breathtakingly beautiful, what stood out even more was the night sky after sunset. I am still in awe as I think of the stars that seemed to stretch endlessly above me. It was a quiet, humbling reminder of how big God is.

It's sometimes hard to imagine that the God who placed all those stars in the sky also cares about the tiny details of our lives. But he does. He sees everything and is present through it all.

So often, we limit what we believe God can do in our lives. But let's not take a view of God that restricts him to only the grand gestures. He wants to speak about the small, everyday things as well.

When we start to place limits or become complacent where we are in our faith, it can be considered *Tiny Faith Syndrome*. This syndrome shrinks our view of God. It can make our prayers smaller and lessen the obedience we need to live out the purpose God has for us. It focuses on our resources and control rather than God's limitless ability.

When we trust God and begin to see how infinite he truly is, we position ourselves to hear what he's been ready to show us all along.

Trust is the antidote. When we allow God to guide and take care of us, he opens us to hearing his voice and responding. Faith isn't about knowing how everything will turn out but about *who* holds it all.

Questions:

Where in your life have you been having symptoms of TFS (Tiny Faith Syndrome) and limiting God by expecting too little or playing it safe?

Next Steps:

Write down one area of your life where you've been praying "small" or holding back in faith. Ask God to help you trust him more, show you where you need to see him, and listen in that area.

Prayer:

Jesus, forgive me for the times I've let small faith shape my expectations. Help me see you as powerful, loving, and unlimited. Grow my faith and teach me to trust you with bold prayers, listen for your direction, and then take the courageous next steps you're calling me to. 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.

Reflections - What is God Teaching Me?

July 5, 2025

Matthew 11:15

"Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

In a world filled with the constant noise of notifications, opinions, and nonstop activity, truly listening can feel like a lost skill. But Jesus' words in Matthew 11:15 are challenging and straightforward: "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" He isn't just talking about physical hearing. Jesus calls us to pay attention and tune our hearts to God's words.

Throughout this week, we have been asked to notice that God is still speaking, but our ability to hear him depends on our willingness to be expectant, observant, and respond.

Like Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3), sometimes we miss what God is doing because we're too distracted, busy, or stuck in our plans. We can hear God speak when we pause, get quiet, and notice things around us.

Noticing God means expecting him to move, observing how he shows up, and responding in faith. It's not about having all the answers but about opening our hearts to his guidance.

So today, let's reflect on ways we can slow down and create space to hear God's whisper above the noise.

Prayer:

God, thank you for always speaking. Help me have ears to hear and an open heart so I can understand all you planned for me. In the middle of the noise, teach me to slow down and listen. I want to notice you, trust you, and respond to whatever you're saying. In Jesus' name, I pray, 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.