ABOVE THE NOISE

Pastor Carl

Preparing Your Heart | Luke 8:5 - 15

START TALKING - Find conversations starters for the group or with a friend.

• There can often be so much noise around us that affects how we do feel and what we think. What and Who are the biggest influences in your life?

KEEP READING - Read the Scripture and ask a question to get the group thinking. Read these scriptures out loud:

Proverbs 3:6 (MSG) | Luke 8:5 - 15 (NIV) | 2 Corinthians 7:1 (MSG)

Pastor Carl shared that on the day of Pentecost the disciples gathered in the upper room and there would have been lots of outside noise i.e. political unrest, fear for their lives and Jesus was gone and still some wondered why.

- Outside voices can be both noisy and helpful. What are some of the noises in your life right now and are they helpful?
- What should be the #1 priority voice in your life and why?

KEEP TALKING - Choose questions to create openness.

We heard that God doesn't have a speaking problem' we have a hearing problem and there are four heart conditions that affect us hearing the voice of God. A *polluted* heart, a *distracted* heart, an *immature* heart and a *prepared* heart. God's voice is clearest in a prepared environment and to prepare our hearts we need to *Repent, Refocus* and *Revive* our hearts.

- What stands out to you from these four heart conditions?
- Which heart condition do you most align with and why?
- If a prepared heart requires repentance, refocusing and revival, what steps do you need to take today to prepare your heart to hear His voice?

KEEP MOVING/GOING - Commit to a step and live it out this week.

• Spend some time this week inviting the Holy Spirit and why not sit, wait and listen for Him to speak. He will. Will you wait or will move on quickly? Be patient. Have a pen and paper ready and play some gentle instrumental music if it's helpful. Learn to listen for His voice.

KEEP PRAYING

• If some in your group have opened up about areas in their life where they are struggling to find hope and they feel discouraged commit to praying for them and touching base as a group this week via text or What'sApp.