

LOVE LONGS TO COMMUNICATE

Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
(Exodus 33:11 NLT)

Welcome to the Commitment Service. This is a special time for you to be with God. We're going to have a worship service, and it may be different than other services you've been to before. We're going to play some music and we want you to just be still and listen to the words.

God is a God who speaks, and He wants to speak with you. That may sound mystical, but it doesn't have to be weird. Sometimes we make it harder than it really is. Normally when someone speaks, they cause thoughts in your head by using their mouth, tongue and vocal cords. God can skip the vocal cords altogether and just cause thoughts in your head. He could show you a picture or even a vision—like a mental-movie. All you have to do is listen. His ability to communicate is greater than your inability to hear.

Do whatever you feel is comfortable during this time. Worship God as you normally would. Stand up or kneel down if you want. Raise your hands. If you know the songs, sing along. Please be respectful of those around you.

Lastly, God loves you and longs to communicate with you. Listen, and hear what God would say to you.

YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

What does God's voice sound like? Sometimes it's hard to tell if what is in your mind are God's thoughts or your own. The Bible describes God's voice as "a gentle whisper," (1 Kings 19:12), and just like we learn to recognize the voice of our parents, we can learn to recognize God's. Here are a couple more ideas to help you learn to recognize God's voice:

- When God speaks, there is often a sense of authority.
- God's voice is often accompanied by a sense of peace
- God never contradicts himself. So what he says to you will line up with the truth in the Bible.
- You may not immediately understand what God is talking about. You may want to share what you heard with your leader and seek their guidance.
- *Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.* (1 Thesalonians 5:19-22 The Message -emphasis added)
- *My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.* (1 John 4:1 The Message)

What do you believe the Lord is saying to you? Write it here.

So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes Lord, your servant is listening'"
(1Sam. 3:9 NLT)

THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

*"...and you will hear a voice say,
'This is the way; turn around and walk here.'"
(Isaiah 30:21 NLT)*

Jesus is Lord. This is the central fact to our faith. He is God. And he is our savior by His sacrificial death on the cross. This is the good news, the Gospel, that Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross to pay for your sin. Because of this, you can enter into relationship with God. And this Gospel is not given to you so that you can only know it and believe it. It is also to be lived and obeyed.

Christianity doesn't make sense unless Jesus is the Lord of your life. He is Lord when you obey Him. When your thoughts, words and actions reflect who He is, that's when He is Lord. This means that the decisions you make, large and small, are in submission to what He wants to do with your life. This might mean that you ask Jesus about whether or not you should go to university, and if so, where. It might mean that you ask Jesus about if you should date someone.

The most amazing thing is this: the same Lord to whom you owe everything has your best interest in mind. He has dreams for you. Jesus has prepared a life for you filled with the right amount of challenge and reward to make your life truly abundant.

Jesus deserves your response. In light of His dreams for you and His Lordship, how will you submit your life to Him?

RESPOND TO THE LORD

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he appeared to his followers and gave them the mandate to tell his story to the whole world: "Then Jesus came to them and said, *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'*" (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

In the centuries since, believers have gone to every nation to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many faced hardships, even death. Some saw whole people groups become believers, others faced indifference or persecution. All were following Christ's command to "go into all the world." Now, it's your turn. More than a billion people have never heard. What will be your part in the Great Commission?

Please know that you don't have to become a missionary in the traditional sense to obey Jesus. (Although, he may call you to that in your future.) There are so many ways to be involved in the Great Commission. In light of what Jesus has been saying to you, would you prayerfully consider this Great Commission challenge? Take the card at left, turn it over and pray.

As an expression of my commitment in the next year I will:

Pray:

- ☐ Pray regularly for a missionary I know or that my church supports
- ☐ Start a weekly prayer group for the nations

Give:

- ☐ Give of my resources to a missionary or mission project

Prepare:

- ☐ Read two books on missions
- ☐ Contact a mission agency for information on how to get involved
- ☐ Learn a foreign language

Go:

- ☐ Go on another short-term outreach
- ☐ Present the Gospel to my friends
- ☐ Devote my life to the cause of world missions

Write a statement of your personal Commitment to Jesus.

If you're ready, complete the reverse side of this card and keep it in a safe place as a reminder of your commitment.