

## Session 5: Listening for others

### Session notes

- We've covered a lot of the ground now, and this and the next session are more about growing more into the habit of hearing God and following his voice.
- We've mentioned the passage in Acts about the famine (Acts 11.28)
- Words to Paul about impending imprisonment
  - Acts 20.22 – going to Jerusalem constrained by the Spirit
  - Acts 21.7-15 – Agabus belt prophecy. Note the “I saw God said” aspect here!
  - What is interesting is how some saw it as a warning, but Paul received it as an encouragement.
  - Note also how this prophecy wasn't the “one big word”, but that it fitted with what Paul had sensed for himself and doubtless what others had prophetically shared with him (Acts 20.23 – in every city ...)
- Examples:
  - “Big”: Couple who moved to Oxford (one of them had a dream, then they were being prayed for by some prophets and exactly the same city was shared with them.)
  - “Could seem less significant”: My first word – God will be with you
- Key: It all counts, it all helps.

### Exercise

Two options:

Either praying in triplets: Go round each each combination of 2 prophecy, 1 receive.

Or the “double circle” exercise (see below).

Final encouragement/challenge (not on video, session leader to give)

This week, pray specifically for someone in your small group and ask God for a word for them.

### Notes to help the session run well

For the triplets, helpful to have some images and objects around.

As noted above, there is an alternative exercise for this session if you have plenty of space and enough people. Put people in groups of 8, 10, or 12 (must be even). Then split each group into an “inner” group and an “outer” group. They then form two concentric circles, the inner group form an inner circle and face outwards; the outer group form the outer circle (surrounding the inner circle) and face inwards. If you've done this bit right then each person in an inner circle should be facing someone in an outer circle, and vice versa.

Then, the people in the inner circle close their eyes, and the outer circles goes around the inner circle a few times, ending up with a different person in front of each person in the inner circle.

Keeping their eyes closed, as the inner circle to hear God for the person now in front of them, and pray that God would speak. Give time for people to hear God (eyes closed, so you may want to remind people about God giving images, phrase, bible passages).

Then, ask them to open their eyes and share with the person in front of them.

Repeat, but with the outer circle closing eyes and hearing God, the inner circle spins around.