

**Leader's Guide**

## Session 4: The Seven Languages

**OPEN**

**Leader:** *Open the session with prayer. Pass out the Participants' Handouts to everyone in the group. Begin by following up with the Deeper Walk section from session three. What exercise did everyone choose? How did it go?*

**What are the most significant words anyone has ever said to you? Why are those words important to you?**

**What kind of relationship do you have with the person that said those words to you? How does your relationship with him or her contribute to the significance of the words?**

This series has been about hearing the voice of God. As Mark has pointed out through his teaching, learning to hear God's voice is less about you and more about growing closer to God. Last session, we talked about the primary language of God—His Word. In this final session, we're going to learn about the six secondary languages.

**VIEW**

**Show Session 4:** *The Seven Languages* (12 minutes)

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**REVIEW**

As we learned in the previous session, God speaks through the Bible. His Word is alive and active and the Holy Spirit helps us understand and interpret it and apply it to our lives. But God also speaks to us in a variety of other ways.

**What examples from the Bible of God speaking to His people did Mark talk about?** (He talked about Moses and the burning bush, Pharaoh and the plagues, Hezekiah and his illness, Belshazzar and the writing on the wall, Balaam and the donkey.) **How do these examples show the various ways God chooses to speak to us?**

There are seven languages of God. The first—and primary—language is Scripture. **According to Mark, what are the six secondary languages of God?** (Desires, dreams, doors, people, promptings, and pain.)

Mark pointed out that God speaks to each of us uniquely. God knows us intimately and knows how to communicate with us. While every believer hears from God through Scripture, each Christian can hear from God in a number of different ways. Those ways include: desires, dreams, doors, people, promptings, and pain.

**Leader:** *As you discuss hearing from God outside of Scripture, be sure to ask your group how they judged if what they heard was from God. Ask them how they determined if what they heard lined up with Scripture.*

Everything we hear from God outside of Scripture should be received through the lens of the Bible. **What are some dangers of not filtering what you think you’ve heard from God through Scripture?**

Let’s take a look at each of the six secondary languages of God. The first is desires. **How has God used your desires to speak to you?**

**What’s the difference between desires from God and sinful desires? How can you tell?**

The second language is dreams. When Mark spoke about dreams, he meant the aspirations we have for our

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lives. Not all of our dreams are from God, but sometimes He gives us dreams for the sake of His kingdom. **What dreams has God given you?**

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**How do you discern if a dream is from God or not?**

The third language is doors—sometimes God will open and close certain doors in our lives to guide us. **When has God opened or closed a door for you? How did you react? What did you end up doing? How did God use that open or closed door to give you direction?**

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The fourth language is people. God uses people to speak to us all the time. **How have godly people spoken God’s truth into your life? How did you receive that truth?**

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The fifth language is promptings. The Holy Spirit often prompts us to do certain things, like praying for a neighbor or paying for someone’s groceries. **When has the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something? How could you tell it was the Spirit moving in you?**

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**How did you feel about His prompting? Did you obey? What did you learn through the process?**

The final language is pain. Jesus never guaranteed us an easy life. He assured us there would be struggle in the world, and oftentimes He uses pain to speak to us. **How has God used pain to speak to you? What did you learn?**

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Mark closed by explaining how the languages of God are love languages. God speaks to us because He loves us deeply. As we’ve seen in this study, the whole point of listening to God is to grow in intimacy with Him. Part of being close to Him is understanding His profound love for us.

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## **BIBLE EXPLORATION**

God speaks to us because we are in relationship with Him. He desires intimacy with us. We're able to enjoy communion with Him because Jesus made a way for us to be reunited with God through His death and resurrection. The author of Hebrews writes about God speaking to us through Jesus. Read Hebrews 1:1–4.

Verse 1 talks about how God spoke through the prophets. **What are some examples from Scripture of God speaking through the prophets in various ways?**

**Who has God used to speak to us now?** (Jesus)

**What do these verses say about Jesus?**

*Possible answers include:*

- *God reveals Himself through Jesus.*
- *God created the universe through Jesus.*
- *Jesus is the heir of all things.*
- *Jesus is the radiance of God's glory.*
- *Jesus is the exact representation of the Father.*
- *Jesus sustains all things by His word.*
- *He provided the purification for sins.*
- *He's at the right hand of the Father in heaven.*
- *He is superior to angels.*

**How, then, has God revealed Himself through Jesus?**

God has spoken to us through Christ—He has revealed Himself by sending His Son to the world. Not only has He revealed Himself to us, but He also made a way, through Jesus, for us to be in relationship with Him. Jesus is the full expression of God's love for us. Because of His love, He speaks.

**Is it easy or difficult for you to recognize God's love for you? Why do you think that is?**

**How do you think listening to God and accepting His love for you are related?**

We can express our love for God by listening to Him. He pours out His love on us by being in relationship with us. But God's love doesn't stop there. Right before He went

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to the cross, Jesus spoke these words to the disciples.

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Read John 16:7–15.

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**Why is it better that Jesus went away? Who is the Advocate?** (The Holy Spirit)

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**Why do you think God sent the Spirit to us? What does He do?**

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**How is the gift of the Holy Spirit an expression of God's love for us?**

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As we've covered in this session, God speaks to us in a variety of ways because He loves us. **What do these verses say about how God speaks to us?** (They say that the Spirit speaks to us from what He hears from Jesus. The Spirit leads us in truth and glorifies Jesus.)

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One of the key points in this passage is that the Spirit will guide us into all truth. **When have you needed to be guided in truth? How did the Holy Spirit help you in that situation?**

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**Thinking back to the languages of God (Scripture, desires, dreams, doors, people, promptings, pain), how has the Spirit used those languages to speak truth to you?**

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**When you've heard something through the six secondary languages, how has the Spirit helped you discern if those words were from God or not?**

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**Leader:** *If your group seems stuck on this question, remind them of the power of Scripture. God has revealed His truth through His Word and we should always take advantage of it. Whenever we think we hear something from God, we should go to Scripture and ask the Spirit to make the truth clear.*

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**What fears, if any, do you have about hearing God's voice? Why do you think you have those fears?**

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The Holy Spirit of God lives in us, speaks to us, and guides us. We're never separated from His presence. **In light of this truth, how does knowing you have the Holy Spirit's presence reassure you?**

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**LAST WORD**

This series has been all about hearing the voice of God. We’ve talked about what it means to listen to Him, how to hear Him speak through Scripture, and how He speaks through the other six languages. As we’ve discussed throughout the series, God speaks to us because of His love for us. We can discern His voice by the power of the Spirit.

**Looking back on this series, how has your attitude toward listening to God changed?**

**What has God taught you through this series? How could you apply what you learned this week?**

Let’s close this series in prayer, asking God to continue to speak to us and for the Spirit to equip us with discernment.

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## **DEEPER WALK**

**Leader:** Encourage your group to pick at least one of the following suggested applications to put into practice this week. You may even invite them to circle the one they choose. Challenge them to follow up with someone in the group to talk about how it went.

**Read:** Finish reading Mark's book *Whisper*.

**Reflect:** List the seven languages of God on a sheet of paper. Reflect on the ways God has used each of those languages to speak to you and write down what you remember. When you doubt God's voice in your life, use this sheet as an encouragement and a reminder.

**Rejoice:** Choose a worship song that focuses on how God reveals His love for us through Jesus. Some songs include: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*, *At the Cross (Love Ran Red)*, *Jesus Paid It All*. Listen to that song every day to remind you of His love.

**Tell:** Pick one person—a coworker, your spouse, a friend—and share what you've learned through this series with him or her.

**Pray:** Thank God for what He's taught you through this series. Thank Him for His love and ask that He would use you to show others His love this week.

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