**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How do I fulfill God’s mission?**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” ([Matthew 28:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19))

*Christianity is so much more than only another religion. It’s not just another collection of rules and regulations. It’s a real relationship with Jesus Christ. When we give our heart to Jesus, He becomes our Savior and our Lord. Life is not only full of responsibilities, bills, and work, but it can also be full of eternal purpose.*

*As we grow closer to God, He begins to reveal His true purpose and plans for our life. We begin to discover the personal mission and assignment He has designed for each of us. While we may have different gifts, talents, and abilities, each of us is called to the same mission of helping to transform the world with God’s love and power. God calls us to personally share our faith, to help lead others toward a deeper walk with Christ, and to help others fulfill their individual mission. As we lean into God and allow Him to make a difference in our life, He will in turn use us to make a difference in the life of others.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever watched a TV show that asked the audience to vote? If so, did you vote? Why or why not? |

In today’s world, we’re constantly pushed to give our opinion. We’re invited to rate products we purchase because advertisers know our response matters. We react to videos and posts with our own comments. Even TV shows take advantage of the fact that our brains are more engaged in their programming when we’re invited to respond. This is why several shows that ask for audience response are thriving in our culture.

Our opinions tell companies how to market to us. They show our friends where we stand on issues. They make our belief system and worldview transparent to onlookers. What we respond to and how we respond shapes who we are. Much more valuable than our response to others is our response to God. So today we’re going to talk about the importance of responding to God daily. When we respond to Him daily, we become prepared to respond to everything else in life as well.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your response to this question: In your opinion, what’s the greatest challenge to living God’s way?



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| **QUESTION**In your opinion, what’s the greatest challenge to living God’s way? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

In our Bible reading today, we’ll meet two men. One behaved as though he had cultivated the habit of responding to what God said, and the other was new to hearing God’s voice and following through with what God said. We don’t know much about Ananias. He’s simply introduced to us as a “believer.” But God knew Ananias and called him by name. God commanded Ananias to assist in a divine plan to heal Saul, who was known as an enemy of those who followed Jesus’ teachings, Christians.

**Expect God to Guide You**

Read [Acts 9:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.10).

When God spoke, Ananias’s response showed that he was probably no novice at hearing from God. Ananias didn’t seem to be surprised when God spoke to him. He responded as we all should to God’s call: “Yes, Lord!” It’s likely that Ananias had already proven himself trustworthy. Responding to God begins with listening to God’s voice. Our listening skill develops as we grow in relationship with God. The habit of saying yes to God allows us to be part of fulfilling His mission.

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| **QUESTION**Although Ananias was a believer with no official ministry title (pastor, evangelist, missionary, etc.) that we know of, God still spoke to him. What can we learn from this? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some things that prevent you from paying attention to God’s voice? |

**Trust God to Use You**

Read [Acts 9:11–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.11-14).

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| **QUESTION**In what ways do we see God speaking to Ananias and Saul in these verses? What can we learn about how God speaks to us from this? |

Ananias recognized God’s voice, but he was confused by God’s instructions. God told him to be part of healing someone who was persecuting believers. God wasn’t telling Ananias to do what he expected God to tell him, so Ananias had a decision to make. Would he trust God when he didn’t understand God’s ways? Or would he choose to argue or ignore God’s instructions?

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been in a situation where God’s instructions were clear, but didn’t make sense to you at the time? Tell us about it. |

**Responding Will Require Courage**

Read [Acts 9:15–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.15-18).

Not long before God’s instructions to Ananias, Saul was on a mission to persecute God’s people. He had been given authority by the religious leaders to imprison believers for their beliefs. So responding to God would require courage. Still, Ananias obeyed. Ananias was used miraculously because he chose to do what God directed even though it seemed to put his life in danger. The obvious miracle that day was Saul’s healing. But don’t miss the miracle that may have happened in Ananias’s heart as well. Only God can soften our heart and help us to forgive our enemies.

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| **QUESTION**How do you imagine the story would have ended if Ananias had disobeyed God? |

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| **QUESTION**Ananias had to obey, in spite of his concerns, to see a miracle happen. Why do you think God requires us to trust Him with our life? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *Straight Street, the street where the Lord told Ananias to find Saul in* [*Acts 9:11*](https://biblia.com/bible/acts/9/11)*, still exists today. In Damascus, Syria, this street was called Decumanus Maximus by the Romans and was the longest east-west street in the city. The road was the most important and active road in the city well into the twentieth century until the development of highways.* |

**Reflect**

**I Respond to God Daily**

The story of Ananias and Saul is an example of the many ways in which God speaks. Both men heard from God, one through dreams and visions, and the other by hearing God’s voice. God chose both of them, one a seemingly devout believer and the other a new believer who had sinned against God and persecuted His people before his conversion experience.

Whether you’ve known God all your life or have just recently met Him, He speaks to all of us. Our job is to listen and respond to Him daily. Just as Ananias obeyed God by overcoming his apparent fear of Saul, we’re called to obey God. Obeying God requires courage and leaving our comfort zone behind. But when we decide to obey—even when we don’t fully understand His instructions—the results are miraculous.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**Ananias chose serving Saul over valuing his own potential safety. In what way are you choosing someone else’s good over your comfort or desires right now? |

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| **QUESTION**Ananias likely did not understand God’s motivation behind His instructions, but he still obeyed. Do you struggle to obey God when you don’t understand? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you feel God is prompting you to do something in a situation in your life, but you’re afraid to? Take a minute to write out a prayer to God stating your fears and then end by declaring your trust in Him. |

**Activate**

God speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible. We have the responsibility of responding to God’s Word daily. But only learning God’s Word without responding to it proves us to be poor Christians who have claimed resurrection life but are still unchanged. Responding to God is the key to becoming a part of His mission. As we respond to God, our faith grows, our fears fall away, our courage strengthens, and our love—even for our enemies—endures.

**Challenge**

Many Christians keep a journal to write in daily. A journal can be very purposeful in our daily time with the Lord as well as encouraging when we look back through it and see God’s faithfulness. Consider getting a journal to write down these things: prayer needs, what you learned from your Bible reading, what God spoke to you, and your prayer response to God.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to spend time in God’s Word with the personal devotions.

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Respond to God Daily**

Read [Acts 9:10–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.10-18).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about responding to Him daily? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: God Helps Us Respond to Him**

Read [Ezekiel 36:22–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eze36.22-27).

Sometimes when we don’t understand why God wants us to do something, we stop responding to Him. God has given His Holy Spirit to us to help us keep His commands and obey His instructions, even when we want to oppose or ignore what He tells us to do.

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| **QUESTION**Has the Holy Spirit ever nudged you to obey God? |

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| **QUESTION**What can you do to respond to God more often with the help of the Holy Spirit? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Expect God to Guide You Daily**

Read [Psalm 37:23–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps37.23-24).

God pursues us and shows us the way daily. We should expect God to talk to us while we pray and at other times as well. We can also hear from Him throughout the day: at home, at work, when we relax, and when we have conversations with others. In every moment of every day, God’s leading is available to us. The more we respond to His voice, the clearer it becomes for us to hear Him.

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| **QUESTION**How does it comfort you to know God is directing your every step? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you feel God holding your hand and leading you? Explain. |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: Responding by Obeying God Shows Love**

Read [1 John 5:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn5.1-5).

To love God is to obey Him. In the same way, disobeying God with our actions while claiming to follow Him is not loving God. Responding to God daily conveys our love to God deeply.

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| **QUESTION**Thinking of your own relationship with your parents or children, how can you relate to obedience being love in action? |

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| **QUESTION**In what area of your life do you find it the hardest to respond to God and obey Him? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: Pleasing God Releases Blessings**

Read [Galatians 6:7–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga6.7-10).

Responding daily to God might seem tiresome, but keep going. In due time, the relationship of trust you have cultivated with God will produce a harvest of blessing.

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| **QUESTION**Have you paused your response to God during some seasons? What made you stop? |

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| **QUESTION**What does this Scripture teach us about the blessing of obeying God without growing weary? |