



Can You Hear Me Now?

How to hear God's voice in a noisy world.

Jason Perkins

Part Three - Providential Relationships

INTRODUCTION

We can probably all agree that if we look back on our lives, there are people who played significant roles in helping us become who we are today. In similarity, our faith stories had people impacting our journey that we didn't even know. In this final installment of *Can You Hear Me Now?*, Jason explains the role that providential relationships play in hearing God's voice in a very noisy world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have everyone in the group answer the following:

1. Looking back, are there people you feel God providentially brought into your life at crucial times? Who were they? How did God use them to speak to you? (If people in your group have children, ask if anyone has seen God providentially bring someone into one of their children's lives.)

Have a few people answer the following:

2. Looking back, is there a time when you feel God brought someone across your path that could have spoken truth into your life, but you resisted the relationship?

Allow those who have an answer to the following share their stories:

3. Do you think there is someone that would say YOU are someone God providentially dropped into their lives?
4. Have someone read 2 Timothy 2:1-2 and Acts 9:26-28...
Jason talked about three specific people from the early church in the first century, Paul, Timothy and Barnabas. Each of these people represent a different category of relationships that we need in our lives. Paul represents the mentor relationship, Timothy represents a student relationship and Barnabas represented the relationship of an encourager. Think about each category and share with the group who (if anyone) plays these types of roles in your life.
5. Think about the 3 categories of relationships, is there one category that you need to develop in your life? Do you need to Pursue a Paul, Train a Timothy or Be a Barnabas? If so, which category is it? Share with your group the step you need to take to position yourself for maximum potential in order for a providential relationship to occur.

MOVING FORWARD

Providential relationships allow us to hear God's voice in a very noisy world. It is one of the many ways that God uses to speak truth into our lives.

Identify a person to pursue as a Paul, or perhaps identify a place where you could train a Timothy and finally identify someone that you need to encourage like Barnabas did. Now make a plan to take a step towards that relationship this week and share that with your group. Have each group member pray a one sentence prayer asking God to open opportunities for each of these relationships in your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Hebrews 3:13