

**LISTEN: Ignatius of Loyola (Philippians 3:7-16)**  
**Putting on a Habit sermon series**  
**By Pastor David Hillis, 09.23.18**

**BIG IDEA:** As we listen closely to God we come to know His heart, which molds our passions, priorities and perspective to life.

**Know Him Personally** (Philippians 3:7-11)

- We want to know about God, but the more we come to *know* God, the more our lives will change. Things we once thought were so valuable will lose their value and importance.
- If we learn to be *with* Christ and listen well over time, we will begin to develop a relationship with Christ and find fulfillment in life.

**Focus on the Goal** (Philippians 3:12-14; Isaiah 30:18, 20-22)

- We are not perfect, we don't always hear God perfectly, nor do we have everything all figured out, but when we listen closely, keeping our eyes on our relationship with Christ, we will hear God's voice directing us.
- The Lord waits for us to come to Him and when we do He shows us His love and compassion and blesses us.

**Hear the Voice of God** (1 Corinthians 6:19)

- When we accept Christ, God's Spirit takes up residence in our hearts.
- Once we establish a relationship with Christ, we can then hear consistently and clearly, with a heart deeply desiring to know everything God has for us.

**Next Step:** *How well do you feel that you hear from God in the areas of your life? Are you listening well and making God the center of your life?*

**Personal Questions for the Week:**

*This week we learned more about the value of listening well to God. Pastor Dave touched on 4 habits we can become accustomed to using in our relationship with God in order to listen well, and this week's personal questions are designed to help you learn to practice those yourself.*

1. *Lectio Divina.* Read Philippians 3:7-16, spending some time in perhaps 3 different translations of the Bible each time you do ([biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com) or the YouVersion Bible app have almost all available English translations). Check out the online articles and video in your online sermon notes at [mygrace.church/notes](http://mygrace.church/notes), to help you walk through the 5 steps of *lectio divina*. Then, on other days this week in your time with God, pick another passage and follow this process.
2. *Imaginative Prayer.* In week 1 of the series, Pastor Dave touched on 1 Kings 19:1-18. Take a look at the online article/video in the online sermon notes at [mygrace.church/notes](http://mygrace.church/notes) explaining Imaginative Prayer, then try it for yourself with this chapter in 1 Kings. Read it slowly, and as you do, start visualizing what the scene might have looked like. Then close your eyes, pray for God's presence uninterrupted, and consider each of your senses to bring them all into the scene, as if you were right there in that moment. See how God speaks to you through your imagination. Then, next time you have some time, pick another Bible story that you think God might want to use to speak to you, and follow this process.
3. *Daily Examen.* Use the articles and audio resources at [mygrace.church/notes](http://mygrace.church/notes), to guide you through the steps of the Examen. Find 15-20 minutes each day near the end of your day to have a simple, uninterrupted conversation with God. You might consider going to a quiet spot outside somewhere, free from distractions. Listen well to what God might be saying to you as you process your day with Him.
4. *Discerning Prayer.* Consider the most challenging decision you might face in any area of your life right now; one that it has been hard to know the will of God. Open/print off a copy of Pastor Dave's "Discerning Prayer" steps (at [mygrace.church/notes](http://mygrace.church/notes)) and commit to prioritize a process of walking through these steps over the next few days to get the answer(s) you need.