



Everybody Always: Enough | July 17, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Most of us don't like being told what to do. We want to figure it out on our own. And yet for some reason, in our faith, we act as if we want God to tell us exactly what to do. Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

Romans 10:17 (MSG)

"The point is, before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to."

Discussion

Picture a quintessential, remote cabin. It's probably in the middle of nowhere. There's water, nature, peace and quiet. Everything feels right and calm. This place probably looks a little bit different for all of us, but for some, it looks like a Young Life camp. The moment you step foot on a Young Life camp property, you notice that something is different. Not only is the grass perfectly manicured, but there's almost something in the air that makes it feel special, like God is extra present somehow.

1. What does this remote place look like for you? Is it a place that actually exists or is it in your imagination?
2. What makes these places special? What kind of experiences do you have or picture having there?

In his book, "Everybody Always," Bob Goff describes his lodge. He talks about the waterfalls, streams, and beautiful silence. He says that it's the place where it's easiest for him to hear God; an uncluttered retreat where the normal worries, stresses and pressures of life seem to become quiet. Removing these distractions makes it easier to feel God, and thus hear him as well. The truth is, although most of us prefer to do things our own way and on our own time, when it comes to our faith, we prefer waiting for God to tell us exactly what to do. But that's not always how it works. God more often tells us to "go do," and that he'll be with us along the way.

3. What things in your life distract you from hearing God's voice (career, relationships, money, etc.)? Why do you think most of us live so attuned to things that aren't God's voice and word?
4. Do you prefer to do things your own way, yet wait on God for specific instruction as well? Why do you think this is? How does it make you feel when God seems quiet?

In Romans 10:17, we read that trust comes through listening. Most of us are too busy, distracted, and entertained to pause in silence long enough to listen for God's voice and presence. When we go to a remote place like Bob's lodge or a Young Life camp, however, it becomes easier to sense and hear God because we've removed the things that keep us from listening. And the funny thing is, the more we are attuned to listening to God's voice and his word, the more we actually take action instead of waiting around.

5. When is a time/place where you felt most connected to God? Do you remember what he revealed to you during that experience?
6. Why do you think that the more we listen, the more confidence we have to take action? Is this true for you as well?

What's Next?

Most of the time when we don't hear God audibly, we think that he's not there, distant, or indifferent. Bob says in his book that God's silence is not indifference, he simply trusts us. The problem is that we wait, wait, and wait for God to tell us what to do, knowing full well we really don't want anyone to tell us what to do. The truth is, God knows that we are already enough. We don't need specific instructions from him to succeed or make an impact in this life. He simply wants us to take action and go do, while being with us on the journey.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, consider the places where you've been pressing "pause" and waiting on God for answers to take action. Take just a few steps forward and watch God show up. Before we trust, we have to listen. And after we listen, we are prompted to take action, and to trust God along the way.