

## EXERCISE:

Read the four Bible texts and answer the four related questions.



*John 9:1-17*



*Matt 19:16-30*



*Luke 9:10-17*



*John 14:21-24*

## What do you learn in the four stories about doing the words of Jesus?

Read the four stories and write down to whom Jesus says something and what He says.

What are the consequences of doing what Jesus says?

Say something about the people to whom Jesus speaks.

What do you know about their life?

Did people immediately do what Jesus said to them to do?

## What is the response of the people or the main person? Are they happy or critical, angry or excited, why?

Read the story from John 9 once more and write down the responses of all the people.

## Does Jesus apply any conditions to receiving his love?

Read John 15 once more and look at the conditions there are to receiving the love and presence of Jesus.

Why do they decide to do what Jesus asks?

Does Jesus choose the people or do they choose Him?

Is it difficult for the people to carry out the commands of Jesus? If yes, why, if not, why not?



Read the story from John 15:9–17 once again and apply it to your own life.

Pose to yourself four questions:

1. Is there a word from God for me personally in this text?
2. Is there a promise from the Father for my life?
3. Does Jesus ask me to do anything?
4. Decide to act upon this and ask Jesus to help you with this.

## Going deeper

### What does Jesus say about hearing and doing the word?



*John 15:7,8*

The words of Jesus come from the source of life and love. A disciple does not only want to listen to the words of his teacher, but also become like his teacher. Hearing his words and applying them is the way to becoming like him. If you become like Jesus, the kingdom of God will become visible in your surroundings and the same things will happen as in Jesus' time on earth.

### For what are we destined?



*Rom 8:29*

Most people buy a product to use it, for example a washing machine, a laptop or a car. These products come with instructions. We read these and if we are clever, we do what it says. The most important reason for this is that the product can then be used for what it was made.

Imagine that you purchase a laptop and want to work on it, but you do not know what the browser icon (the picture which gives access to the internet) means, so you do not use it. A whole world of possibilities would remain hidden from you.

It is just like that in the kingdom of God. If we want to become like Jesus, the King, then it is good to read and apply His instructions for our life. The most important reason for living will then be realized.

## Jesus, the treasure.



*Matt 13:44-46*

The kingdom resembles treasure or a pearl. Here we see that the treasure or the pearl is the priority. Everything else which could be of importance takes second place. If you study the word, you will find the treasure in the person of Jesus. The word of God is full of secrets. If you study the Bible, these secrets will be made known to you. Just as a treasure which is hidden but after a good look is found.

You could also see God as the purchaser. He was willing to do everything in order to buy the pearl. We are the pearl. Are we just as prepared to do as much to find Him?

## Why does Jesus ask us to receive the word and do it?



*John 8:31-36*

In part 1 we saw that Jesus came especially to set people free. Often we do not know that we are captive to something. This may for example be a thought that you are not good enough or cannot do anything. It could be that you are stuck in a wrong eating pattern or have irrational fears. But if we read and study the word, the truth will set us free.

## What do you do with God's word?



*John 15:10*

In the words of Jesus we find the answers.

**First** Jesus speaks very specifically about doing certain things. Read your notes through well from part 5, the introduction. Here we found 8 commands in the words of Jesus. Write them down again.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## How do I apply the word of God?

### Example

Having just accepted Jesus as my King I read the book of Acts. It was about Peter's speech. He said that we must repent and be baptised. This word touched me. I knew instantly that this was what I needed to do. It was as if God himself was whispering this in my ear. It would not let me go. Immediately a struggle started in my heart. What would my wife say? My family would not accept this and most definitely not my employer. Maybe I would even be fired. Taking up my cross now became a reality. My will met God's will. I knew it was the right thing to do but the world around me would definitely have a problem with it.

It took a while before my wife agreed with me. We then decided together to do what God had said. This led to amazing things. We experienced freedom in making the choice for God, but a difficult time with my family followed, lots of misunderstandings, distance. My job became so difficult that I was consequently sacked. The price was high but would I do it again? Yes, for sure! I wanted to find the treasure of the kingdom. Through being obedient we found it. The treasure was much, much greater than the consequences of the decision.

### Follow the Spirit!



*Acts 8:26-40*

In this story we read that God spoke to Philip. The Holy Spirit told him to go to a specific place. We do not see that Philip had a Bible to read the word of God. He received the words from God in his heart. So we know that we can read God's word and experience His guidance through it, but the Spirit can also speak to our hearts.

Once you start to hear this and apply it, then the voice in your heart will begin to speak louder and clearer.

### Difference between OT and NT?



*Gal 3:24,25, 1 Tim 1:9*

When we are baptised in water and the Holy Spirit we no longer live under the law. In the OT God's people were guided by the law. In the NT, believers follow Jesus and His words and the leading of the Holy Spirit.




For believers, it is not about what you know, but what you hear from God and applying that.

### What does God's word do?



*Philip 2:16*

## EXERCISE:

-  Look in your prayer book and run through the previous lesson's exercises. Have you experienced God speaking to you? What have you done with that up till now?
-  Pray that you will understand the voice of the Holy Spirit better. Also in your daily situations, at school, work or home.
-  Ask your mentor how they started hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit and which difficulties they had to overcome. Ask how they put this in to practise.

Lined writing area with horizontal dotted lines for notes.