DISCUSSION GUIDE
Dec. 28th, 2014 - “The Voice”
by Pastor Bryan James

Sermon Synopsis:
In Jesus’ time, more than one witness was required to testify for a conviction. John the Baptist testified to the authority of Jesus. In addition, the Old Testament prophecies testified to what Jesus was doing and had done by His miraculous works. Salvation is a personal relationship to know God and provides the ability to hear His voice. His voice is to be received, obeyed, and followed.

WELCOME:
Icebreaker: What do you hope to be the most significant change in this coming year?

WORSHIP: Read Psalm 29 and listen to The Digital Age, “Blessed Assurance”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB5vJ4PYZTE.

WORD:
Read: John 5:31-47
John and the Father testify witnessed to Jesus’ spiritual authority.

• To whom do you turn to test that you are making correct choices based on biblical truth?
• Share a time that you experienced authentication of God’s work in your life (i.e., confirmation that God was at work).
• What is the difference between just reading the Word of God and having a relationship with Him?
• In what ways have you submitted to the Word of God this week?
• What life changes have you applied as a result of reading and listening to God’s word?
• What have you struggled to believe and/or obey as you have walked with God?

Pastor Bryan discussed the parable in Luke 18:9-14 and stated that we have to be completely humble and broken before God (like the tax collector) in order to truly receive His grace.

• Recount a time in your life when you found this to be true. Have you experienced this in your life?
• How have you extended the grace you have received from God to others?

Read: Romans 12:2 –Testing and approving God’s word.

• What are ways that we “hear” the voice of God?
• How do we make ourselves “living sacrifices”?

WITNESS:
We always fall short of following God to the fullest. However, we have been offered the Holy Spirit who allows us to have conviction rather than condemnation. Share your year with others, your shortcomings and imperfections. We are not just afforded the ability to fulfill resolutions; rather, we are offered daily renewal and eternal life by the free gift of salvation from Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. The still, silent voice of Holy Spirit can speak to you and lead you if you are willing to submit and follow His voice. Seek opportunities to be bold in following the will of God by inviting non-believers to a life of grace and forgiveness.