

## Communion: Part 4—The Voice of God

Text: Psalm 19

### Warming Up

#### Questions:

1. *What do you find to be one of your biggest distractions?*
2. *In what settings (times or places or instances) do you find it easiest to be aware of God's presence?*

### Digging In

Read **Psalm 19:7-10**.

The psalmist reflects on the goodness and importance of Scripture—the Law of God—here in the middle of his song. He speaks of the Law being refreshing, the precepts giving joy, the decrees being sweeter than honey. The psalmist reaches for ideas and images that convey this love for Scripture.

#### Questions:

1. *If you were to describe Scripture in your own life, what image or metaphor or language would you use?*
2. *In what ways have you found Scripture to be beneficial in your own life?*
3. *In what instances have you found Scripture to not be joyful, sweet, or refreshing?*

When we think of the voice of God, we often think of the Scriptures. There is tangible language there, accounts of God truly speaking, people in obvious relationship with God. But notice in this psalm that the ways God's people hear from God is expanded beyond the pages of Scripture.

Read **Psalm 19:1-6**.

#### Questions:

1. *Many people speak of being most aware of God and His voice in the creation. Why do you think this is?*
2. *What can we hear from God in His creation?*
3. *How can we better hear the voice and presence of God in His creation?*
4. *How have you heard from God in the presence of His creation?*

The Scriptures often speak of our responsibility to work and care for the creation God has placed us in. (**Genesis 2:15**, for example.) In fact, when people have not taken this calling and responsibility seriously, God has spoken against his people and held them accountable. (**Isaiah 24:4-6**, for example.) Perhaps one of the reasons is that creation is one of the ways God makes Himself known to us. This is the testimony of **Romans 1:20**.

#### Questions:

1. *Why do you think stewardship of God's creation tends to be so contentious in some areas of the church?*
2. *How might thinking of creation as God's voice change how we approach our stewardship of it?*

### Sending Out

Read **Psalm 19:12-14**.

The psalmist's awareness of God's voice both in Scripture and creation lead him to a time of confession. He desires to be free of his propensity to sin that he isn't aware of, and that he is all-too aware of. He concludes with a desire to move forward in ways that please God.

#### Questions:

1. *How can Scripture reveal to us where we are broken and in need of forgiveness?*
2. *How can creation reveal to us where we are broken and in need of forgiveness?*
3. *How can we approach creation in such a way that deepens our communion with God?*

### Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.