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## How Does God Speak?

*John 14:15-27*

It is very easy for us to confuse our wishes with God's leading. Is it possible to be certain that it is God who has spoken and not our hearts playing tricks on us?

GROUP DISCUSSION. Be creative as you work together in making a list of "Top Ten Ways to Know God Has Spoken."

PERSONAL REFLECTION. How would your life be different if every decision you made was based solely on the feelings of your heart?

Just before going to the cross, Jesus spoke to his confused disciples and assured them that he would continue to lead and guide them. He said that he would give them two signs to show them that they were going in the right direction: love and the Spirit. *Read John 14:15-27.*

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1. What promise in this passage gives you the greatest sense of assurance?

2. How will we recognize our love for God and his love for us?

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3. Looking back at your last major decision, how did it demonstrate your love for Christ?

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4. What facts are given about the identity of the Spirit?

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5. What is Jesus' purpose in having the Spirit sent to us?

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6. What help can we expect from the Holy Spirit in making decisions?

7. Describe a time when you have known that the Holy Spirit was counseling you.

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8. How does Jesus answer Judas's question, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" (v. 22)?

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9. Describe the special relationship you have with Christ. What has he shown you?

How have you felt his love?

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10. What kind of peace is Jesus talking about in verse 27?

How does it differ from the world's version of peace?

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**11.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis for his faith, said, "Peace is the opposite of security." What does it mean to have peace about a decision you have made?

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**12.** What have Jesus' words in this passage taught you about identifying God's voice?

*Pray for the ability to discern the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.*

**Now or Later**

Moses had trouble believing that it was really God who was telling him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. *Read about Moses' call in Exodus 3:1-12.*

If you had been Moses, how would you have reacted to the sign of authenticity that God gave in verse 12?

When have you received God's after-the-fact assurance regarding a decision you have made?

*Read Exodus 4:1-17.* What additional signs of assurance does God give to Moses?

Why do you think Moses had so much trouble believing God?

What can you learn from Moses' struggle?