

WEEK ELEVEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 10, "H.E.A.Ring From God" *Growing Up*

In week 7 we began to stress the importance of journaling, writing down what God reveals to us in, through, and from His Word. We want to continue to make that discipline an integral part of our lives. **We have one textbook, the Bible.** While we study other books, there is only one Book that we must master and one Book that must master us, the living Word of God. If believers spend a year or more in weekly fellowship with us and we fail to lead them to become people who feed upon the Word of God, we will have missed one of the foundational aspects of discipleship.

The following words of the Lord Jesus are **an essential truth** for someone who desires to be a disciple of Jesus. "Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed in Him, 'If you **continue in My word**, then you are **truly disciples** of Mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free'" (John 8:31,32). Any process of discipleship which does not lead people to "continue in, abide in, live in" the Word of God is not a complete one.

APPLICATION

Robby's H.E.A.R. Bible study method is a tremendous process and one that is worthy of being followed. However, I am not as concerned about someone following a particular process or plan for hearing from God as much as I desire for them **to hear from God.**

The process (again, we are not wanting to focus on a particular process, but we do want to give practical leadership) I gave you Week 1 and 2 was a little simpler and may be easier to grasp:

- **What did God say?** (Robby does a great job of describing what this involves in "Explain" on page 150 in *Growing Up*).

- **What did God say to me?** (While there are dangers of wrong application, that's not the greatest problem most Christians in a good Bible-believing church face. Our danger is reading without applying or reading **without hearing from God.**)

Whatever Bible study method you follow, let me encourage you to lead your group (and your example here will be key) to continue to write down what God says to them. **Hearing from God is a vital discipline for every New Testament disciple.** The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapter 10. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

- **What is the difference between reading the Word of God and feeding on the Word of God?**
- **Does your mind wander while you are reading the Bible? How do you combat that problem?**
- **How often does God speak to you in a deep, personal way while feeding on His Word? Do you expect Him to speak to you?**
- **If God does regularly speak to you what do you do with those insights, the thoughts and truths that God gives you?**
- **Does God sometimes not speak because He knows that we are not taking the time to listen?**
- **If you have grandparents or parents who were believers, would it be a valuable thing for you to have a record of what God had said to them as they lived the Christian life? Don't you believe your family would be blessed as they witnessed how you were nourished by the Word of God?**

Our verse next week is Mark 1:35.