

Our faith walk is most exciting when we discover that God is talking with us and sharing helpful information for our journey



Yet you (all) do not have because you (all) do not ask. James 4:2c

Going on a Treasure Hunt

One of the unique distinctives of our walk as Believers is that we have a relational God who wants to communicate with us. Over the decades I've had a number of times where I believe He spoke to me through a variety of means including dreams, pictures, impressions, Bible verses, the counsel of a friend, etc. There have been seasons where I have heard an abundance of things with great clarity and seasons where His voice has seemed very quiet or unclear.

One of the things that I've enjoyed is when I've been with a group of people, and we've asked YHWH specific questions and then waited together on the LORD. After a period of time, we then recorded our impressions and discussed and prayed more together about what we received.

- For me, this practice started in my training times with Youth with a Mission as a young twenty-something. We had times each week where we would break up into small groups of 3-8 and specifically listen for what God would impress upon us and then we would write them down what we heard and pray for these things. This was a new discipline for me, but I enjoyed these times as we learned how to wait on Him and listen for His voice.
- I've also had times where a group of us waited upon YHWH before going on an outreach. We called it a "treasure hunt" as we were searching for His treasure. We would ask Him for clues related to who He would have us to minister to, where He would have us go, and what He would have us do. I remember this adding a sense of excitement and expectancy, and it was encouraging when a number of the previous clues lined up when debriefing afterwards.
- A couple of years ago, we also had a series of family treasure hunts where we asked God for clues related to the dog that He had for us. We recorded these clues over several months and this led us on a journey that brought us a special puppy that met all of my son's prayer criteria and has been a great joy to us as a family.

In all these (and other) instances there were times when God seemed to speak fairly specifically, other times where He was quiet, and times where things seemed a bit confusing or "off" to me. But one thing I believe strongly is that we get more when we specifically ask for His help and input (James 4:2c). The easiest part is usually receiving something, but after that comes the challenging part of discerning if what was heard was from Him and if so, how important it was, what it meant, and how to apply it to our lives. We also always use the Scriptures as the lens through which we judge the things that we are receiving. There's another important caveat to add--that while I've had a number of times during corporate and personal treasure hunts where there has been clear divine leading, there's also been times that I didn't get anything or didn't understand what was received. That's really ok if we realize we're on a faith journey together where we're learning how to hear God's voice and how to

better obey what we hear Him say.

Tomorrow evening after our time of eating together, we'll have a "treasure hunt" prayer time where we will specifically ask our Father to speak to us about where He would have us meet next as a community. We will wait upon the LORD and write down what we receive so that we can prayerfully process though collectively what we are hearing. I believe it will be the first of a number of set-apart times where we seek His will for the next season for us. Tomorrow night I look forward to waiting on Him together and praying through more of the new adventure He has for us.