

# *Road Map for Relationships*

**Living in Ways that Honor God and Others**

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*Living a Spirit Led Life*

*Encountering God through Bible Study and Listening Prayer*

## Road Map for Relationships

Have you ever felt stuck in trying to move towards healthier relationships with those you care about? Most people do from time to time.

Just as we get out a road map to help us figure out the way to go when we travel, we can take out our Bibles to gain insight for strengthening relationships and moving through life. Not only is it important to know what the Bible has to say about healthy relationships, we also need to know how to apply Biblical truths in practical ways.

Along with the Bible, it is important to pray and listen to what God is communicating to us. To help with this, “listening prayer” questions are included in each day’s lesson. They are meant to help us quiet ourselves and hear from God.

You are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime. Enjoy!

### Study Guide Format:

- A weekly Bible study to accompany the *Living a Spirit Led Life* audio teaching.
- Each week contains five days of lessons, planned to be done one day at a time. Staying in God’s Word is part of the process of gaining a kingdom perspective and learning to hear God’s voice.
- **Road Trip Vistas** are interactive exercises designed to help you listen to God and experience His love. Take time to “pull over,” wait with the Lord, and get His viewpoint. He will encourage you.  

- *Scenic Side Road* is an opportunity to look more in depth at the scriptures.
- The lessons will be referenced during the week’s audio teaching.
- If you come to a question that is unclear, feel free to go to the next one. If you’re part of a group going through the study, be sure to ask about it when you’re together.
- The New American Standard Bible is used unless otherwise noted.
- After completing the week’s homework, we encourage you to listen to the corresponding week’s audio teaching.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;  
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.*

--Psalm 32:8

## Listening Prayer

Communication is vital to healthy and growing relationships, and through this study you will be encouraged to watch for God speaking to you personally. God speaks to us in countless ways. It may be through a thought, song, image, or scripture that passes through our mind, or perhaps through nature, through another person, or through circumstances. Again, the ways are limitless.

So how do we know when it is God speaking? There are primarily three voices we hear with our spiritual ears:

- the voice of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- the voice of Satan (and his demons)
- our own self talk

To discern which voice we are hearing, we listen for the intentions, desires, character, and nature of the voice speaking. For instance:

- God's voice--In the Bible, God is described with names such as: Father of lights, Savior, Redeemer, Provider, Healer, Counselor, and Prince of Peace.
- Satan's voice--Satan is described in the Scriptures as: father of lies, accuser of the brethren, deceiver, and enemy of your soul.

Each of these names from Scripture tells us something about intentions and motivations. God's primary desire is to build relationship with us. He promotes abundant life and reconciliation. The Healer brings healing. Our Savior rescues us. The Prince of Peace speaks words of reconciliation and restoration.

Satan also speaks words consistent with his identity. He comes to kill, steal and destroy. He brings accusations and words of condemnation, and broken relationships and pain are in line with his desires.

The other voice we hear is our own self-talk. This voice tends to reflect the common thinking of the culture. It encourages us to compare ourselves with others and to improve ourselves in order to be *good enough*. This is the voice of insecurity.

To help discern if we are listening to God's voice, we can ask the following questions:

- Does what I sense God is saying line up with the whole context of Scripture?
- Is it consistent with God's character and nature?
- Does it bring conviction but not condemnation?
- Does what I hear set me free from discouragement or lies I believe about myself?
- Is it consistent with the grace poured out through Jesus Christ?
- Would other followers of Jesus agree that what I hear sounds like God's voice?

Sometimes we need to readjust which spiritual radio station we are tuned into, making sure that what we are listening to lines up with the nature, motives, and desires of God. God designed each one of us to hear His voice. You will have opportunities to practice listening to God through this study.

Listening to God is a gift from God's heart to yours. Receive it, enjoy it, and grow in it. You'll be blessed!

*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

--Jesus' words in John 10:27