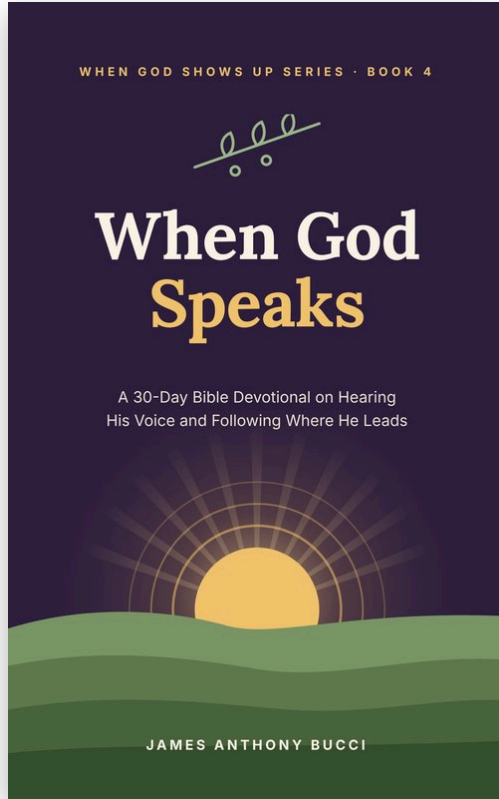


SMALL-GROUP LEADER GUIDE

When God Speaks

Book 4 of the When God Shows Up series



Six weekly sessions for churches, home groups, and friends
reading the 30-day devotional together

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How to use this guide

The book has 30 days. This guide splits them into **six weekly sessions of five days** each. Group members read one day at a time on their own, then meet once a week to talk about what they read.

Each session takes about 45 to 60 minutes and follows the same simple pattern:

- **Open** (5 minutes): one easy question to get everyone talking.
- **Review the week** (5 minutes): name the five stories. Ask someone to retell one in their own words.
- **Read together** (5 minutes): read the key verse aloud, then the full passage if you have time.
- **Talk about it** (25 to 35 minutes): pick the questions that fit your group. You won't get to all of them, and that's fine.
- **Live it and pray** (10 minutes): a simple challenge for the week, then close in prayer.

TIPS FOR LEADERS

- You don't need to be a Bible teacher. Your job is to ask good questions and let people talk.
- Let silence happen. People often need a few seconds to think.
- Never pressure anyone to share. Some of these questions are personal.
- If someone hasn't done the reading, they're still welcome. The stories are short enough to read together.
- Every story points to a King James passage. Encourage people to read the passage itself, not just the retelling.

The questions in this guide come from the journal prompts in the book, so group members will have already thought about them during the week.

Week 1

OPEN

Which story this week surprised you the most, and why?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 1: Speak, Lord (1 Samuel 3:1–21)

Day 2: Peace, Be Still (Mark 4:35–41)

Day 3: Surely the Lord Is in This Place (Genesis 28:10–22)

Day 4: Be It unto Me (Luke 1:26–38)

Day 5: Get Thee Out (Genesis 12:1–9; Hebrews 11:8)

READ TOGETHER

“And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”

1 Samuel 3:10 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 1: Speak, Lord

1. Has God ever been speaking to you before you realized it was Him?
2. Who has been an “Eli” in your life, helping you recognize God’s voice?

Day 2: Peace, Be Still

1. What storm are you facing right now?
2. Have you ever felt like asking God, “Don’t You care?” Write honestly about it.

Day 3: Surely the Lord Is in This Place

1. Have you ever been in a “middle of nowhere” season when God felt far away?
2. Looking back, can you see that God was there? How?

Day 4: Be It unto Me

1. Is there something God seems to be asking of you that you don't fully understand?
2. What honest questions would you like to bring to God about it?

Day 5: Get Thee Out

1. Is God calling you to step out of something familiar?
2. Do you tend to want the whole plan before you obey? Why?

LIVE IT

Pick one story from this week and tell it to someone in your own words before you meet again.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 5:

Lord, give me the faith to follow You even when I can't see where the road is going. Help me trust Your promises more than my need for a map. Whatever my age or season, I want to go where You lead. Amen.

Week 2

OPEN

Which person in this week's stories did you relate to most?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 6: Did Not Our Heart Burn? (Luke 24:13–35)

Day 7: Here Am I; Send Me (Isaiah 6:1–8)

Day 8: What God Hath Cleansed (Acts 10:1–48)

Day 9: A Bow in the Cloud (Genesis 8:15–9:17)

Day 10: Thy Prayer Is Heard (Luke 1:5–25, 57–80)

READ TOGETHER

“And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

Luke 24:32 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 6: Did Not Our Heart Burn?

1. Have you ever been so discouraged that you couldn't see Jesus beside you?
2. When has a passage of Scripture made your heart “burn”?

Day 7: Here Am I; Send Me

1. What does it mean to you that God is “holy, holy, holy”?
2. Do you feel too unworthy for God to use you? How does Isaiah's story speak to that?

Day 8: What God Hath Cleansed

1. Is there a person or group you find it hard to believe God loves?
2. When have you said, “Not so, Lord,” to something God was showing you?

Day 9: A Bow in the Cloud

1. What “storm clouds” make you anxious right now?
2. What promise of God do you most need to remember today?

Day 10: Thy Prayer Is Heard

1. Is there a prayer you’ve stopped praying because you lost hope?
2. How does it help to know that God heard Zacharias’s prayers all along?

LIVE IT

Choose one journal question you skipped this week and write out your answer.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 10:

Lord, thank You that You hear every prayer, even the ones I’ve stopped praying. Forgive my doubt. Renew my hope, and when Your answer comes, let my first words be praise. Amen.

Week 3

OPEN

Was there a verse this week that stuck with you? Read it aloud to the group.

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 11: The Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5:1–31)

Day 12: Fear Not to Take Mary (Matthew 1:18–25)

Day 13: The Potter's House (Jeremiah 18:1–6)

Day 14: Come Over and Help Us (Acts 16:6–15)

Day 15: Not as Man Seeth (1 Samuel 16:1–13)

READ TOGETHER

“TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”

Daniel 5:27 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 11: The Writing on the Wall

1. Is there something God has shown you that you've been ignoring?
2. What lessons has God taught you through the lives of people who came before you?

Day 12: Fear Not to Take Mary

1. Is there a decision you're thinking through right now? Have you invited God into it?
2. What might obeying God cost you in the eyes of others?

Day 13: The Potter's House

1. Where does your life feel “marred” right now?
2. What does it mean to you that the potter didn't throw the clay away?

Day 14: Come Over and Help Us

1. What closed door in your life has been frustrating you?
2. Looking back, has a closed door ever led to something better?

Day 15: Not as Man Seeth

1. Have you ever felt overlooked, like David in the field?
2. Is there someone you've judged by appearance that God may see differently?

LIVE IT

Write this week's key verse on a card and keep it where you'll see it every day.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 15:

Lord, thank You that You look at the heart. Forgive me for judging others by how they look. When I feel overlooked, remind me that You see me. Shape my heart into one that pleases You. Amen.

Week 4

OPEN

Where have you seen God at work in your own life since we last met?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 16: Good Tidings of Great Joy (Luke 2:8–20)

Day 17: Before I Formed Thee (Jeremiah 1:1–10)

Day 18: Another Way (Matthew 2:1–12)

Day 19: An Understanding Heart (1 Kings 3:1–15)

Day 20: My Father's Business (Luke 2:41–52)

READ TOGETHER

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10–11 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 16: Good Tidings of Great Joy

1. Why do you think God announced Jesus' birth to shepherds first?
2. How has hearing the good news about Jesus changed you?

Day 17: Before I Formed Thee

1. What does it mean to you that God knew you before you were born?
2. What excuse do you tend to give when you feel God calling you?

Day 18: Another Way

1. Has God ever redirected you in a way you didn't understand at the time?
2. What did the wise men give Jesus? What can you give Him?

Day 19: An Understanding Heart

1. If God said to you, “Ask what I shall give thee,” what would you ask for?
2. What area of your life needs wisdom right now?

Day 20: My Father’s Business

1. What does it mean for you to be “about your Father’s business”?
2. Is there something God has said to you that you didn’t understand at the time?

LIVE IT

Pray for one person in the group by name every day this week.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 20:

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me what it means to be about my Father’s business. Give me a hunger to listen and learn from Your Word. When I don’t understand what You’re saying, help me treasure it in my heart until I do. Amen.

Week 5

OPEN

Which of this week's stories would you most want to tell a friend who doesn't read the Bible?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 21: Speak Ye unto the Rock (Numbers 20:1–13; Exodus 17:1–7)

Day 22: This Is My Beloved Son (Matthew 3:13–17)

Day 23: Write the Vision (Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4; 3:17–19)

Day 24: Born Again (John 3:1–21)

Day 25: Greatly Beloved (Daniel 9:1–4, 20–23)

READ TOGETHER

“Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water.”

Numbers 20:8 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 21: Speak Ye unto the Rock

1. Do you ever rely on what worked before instead of asking God what He wants now?
2. How does frustration affect your ability to listen to God?

Day 22: This Is My Beloved Son

1. Do you ever feel like you have to earn God's love? Where does that come from?
2. What would it mean for you to hear God call you His “beloved”?

Day 23: Write the Vision

1. What “How long, Lord?” question are you carrying right now?
2. After you pray, do you take time to wait and listen? What would help you do that?

Day 24: Born Again

1. What do you think “born again” means? What does it mean in your own life?
2. Read John 3:16 slowly, putting your own name in place of “the world.” What do you notice?

Day 25: Greatly Beloved

1. Do you ever feel like you have to convince God to listen to you?
2. How does it feel to know God calls His faithful servants “greatly beloved”?

LIVE IT

Read one of this week’s passages in full from your own Bible, slowly, out loud.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 25:

Lord, thank You that You hear me from the very first word of my prayer. Thank You that I am loved by You. Speak to me through Your Word, and let what I read shape how I pray. Amen.

Week 6

OPEN

Looking back over all 30 days, what is one thing God has been showing you?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 26: Hear Ye Him (Matthew 17:1–9)

Day 27: That Just Man (Matthew 27:11–26)

Day 28: Hold Not Thy Peace (Acts 18:1–11)

Day 29: Every Man in His Own Language (Acts 2:1–41)

Day 30: If Any Man Hear My Voice (Revelation 3:14–22)

READ TOGETHER

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

Matthew 17:5 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 26: Hear Ye Him

1. Are there times when you talk to God more than you listen?
2. What has Jesus said in the Gospels that you most need to “hear” today?

Day 27: That Just Man

1. Has God ever spoken to you through someone close to you?
2. When have you been tempted to go along with the crowd against what you knew was right?

Day 28: Hold Not Thy Peace

1. When are you most tempted to stay silent about your faith?
2. How does it help to know that even Paul was afraid?

Day 29: Every Man in His Own Language

1. How did God first speak to you in a way you could understand?
2. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus in “their own language”?

Day 30: If Any Man Hear My Voice

1. In what areas of your life have you become “lukewarm”?
2. What would it look like to open the door to Jesus more fully this week?

LIVE IT

Write a short note to God thanking Him for one thing He did during these 30 days.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 30:

Lord Jesus, I hear You knocking. Forgive me for the times I've been lukewarm and comfortable without You. I open the door. Come in. Be close to me, and let me be close to You, every day. Amen.

After the six weeks

Thank you for leading your group through *When God Speaks*. If your group would like to keep going, the *When God Shows Up* series has more 30-day books, each with its own free leader guide.

- All the books and free leader guides:
jamesanthonybucci.com/leaders
- Read Bible stories free by topic:
jamesanthonybucci.com/topics
- A free 7-day devotional for anyone in your group:
jamesanthonybucci.com/free

You're welcome to print and copy this guide for your group. Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).