



New International Version is used for questions

1. What are the four deepest human struggles? Have you ever experienced one of these? How?
2. Read Genesis 16:1-16. Why did Hagar run away? Pastor Rick said that we run away from difficult situations emotionally in what three ways? Have you ever used one of these to avoid a difficult situation?
3. Pastor Rick said that God speaks to us, how does he do this? What would God never say to us? What voice does God usually use when He speaks to us?
4. What are the four steps to hearing God's voice?
5. Pastor Rick said we should let God define us. How do most people allow themselves to be defined? Why is that harmful?
6. Read Psalm 32:8; John 16:13; and Proverbs 14:12. What is the teaching in these passages? How does God lead us into the pathway we should take? Is it always going to be the easiest path? Can you think of an example when the easiest path would be the wrong path?
7. What are the two burning questions to ask ourselves that will determine whether God is guiding our path?

- knows what I am carrying.
2. *Hagar ran away because Sarah was persecuting her. The three ways we emotionally run away are: a. We shut down; b. We pull away; and c. We avoid what hurts.*
 3. *God primarily speaks to us two ways: The Holy Spirit teaches us what God's Word means and how we should apply it to our lives. The voice that the Spirit uses are our own thoughts as we learn what God's Word teaches us are the right things to do. He also speaks to us through the voice of other people as they give us counsel and guidance. God would never tell us to do something that is clearly contradictory to what the Word of God teaches. If you think God is speaking to you and the voice is telling you to do something the Bible says is wrong, it is not God's voice, it is probably Satan telling you what to do or your own sinful nature.*
 4. *The four steps are: a. Slow down enough to listen; b. Pray, "Holy Spirit, speak to me"; c. Open His Word; and d. Let Him speak truth over every situation.*
 5. *Typically we allow other people to define us by what they say about us, good and bad. This is harmful because what people say about us is many times not the truth and is from a perspective that puts you below them so that they feel better about themselves. People tend to blow other people's light out so that theirs will look brighter.*
 6. *God leads us in the pathway we should take primarily through His Word by telling us what is right and wrong. As long as we are doing God's will, then our decisions will be good. The easiest path is many times the sinful path. For example, someone says God is leading them to get divorced from their spouse when God actually says he hates divorce. They want the divorce because that is easier than working on the problems in their marriage. It is easier to ignore what is wrong rather than address and correct what is wrong.*
 7. *The two burning questions are: a. Will I trust God even when it is hard; and b. Will I follow Him even when it does not make sense.*