

The background features a complex, layered geometric pattern. It consists of numerous thin, parallel lines that create a sense of depth and movement. These lines are arranged in various orientations, some forming a grid-like structure, while others are more chaotic. The overall effect is a dense, textured field of lines that recede into the distance, creating a 3D perspective. The color palette is monochromatic, using shades of gray and white.

DISTRACTION

DIS+T+R+A+C+T+I+O+N

RATE THE LIST BELOW WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIGGEST DISTRACTIONS TO LEARNING AT SCHOOL:

- Smokin' hot boy/girl seated directly beside you**
- Angry Asian martial arts battle in the next room**
- Smell of a dead, rotting frog corpses**
- A dozen giant moths, the size of a human fist, flying around the lights**
- Best friend firing spitwads at your face when the teacher isn't looking**
- Teacher speaks with a bad lisp**
- Power goes out in the entire building**
- Terrible, pussing, itching rash on your neck**
- Someone seated behind you, continually dry heaving during class**
- Your school book is written in a foreign language**

DISTRACTION

LESSON 1

DO YOU LISTEN TO GOD

'My soul is consumed with longing for your Word at all times.' -Psalm 119:20

The word for hear or listen in Scripture is '_____'. The word 'acoustic' comes from this word. It simply means 'to hear,' or 'to listen.' How important is listening? Jesus' first parable was all about listening! In Mark 4, Jesus repeats the idea over and over:

- His first words to the crowds is, '_____!' (v. 3)
- He who has ears to hear, _____!' (v. 9)
- If anyone has ears to hear, _____!' (v. 23)
- Consider carefully what you _____!' (v. 24)
- Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could _____' (v. 33)

The word for listen in this chapter is used over _____ times in Scripture.

READ 1 Corinthians 1:14

According to a recent Barna study, about _____% of Christians read their Bible on a weekly basis. Barna goes on to say, 'Those people who do read will commit about one hour to Bible reading during the week. Those people will spend more time showering, commuting to and from work, watching television, reading the newspaper, eating meals or talking on the telephone.' Obviously, the Bible is not a high priority in the lives of most people.

A.W. Tozer said, 'Much of our religious unbelief is due to a wrong feeling for the Scriptures of Truth... I think a new world will arise out of the religious mists when we approach our Bible with the idea that it is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is NOW speaking.'

THERE ARE 2 PRIMARY WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US TODAY:

1. Through his _____
2. Through his _____

DISTRACTION

THE QUESTION IS: ' _____ ?'

He speaks through His creation:
Read Psalm 19:1-2

THE QUESTION IS, 'WHO'S LISTENING?'

HOW CRAZY IS IT THAT WE'LL CHOOSE THE GLORY OF GLOWING
_____ OVER THE _____ !

HE SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD:
Read Psalm 19:10

READ THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER IN MARK 4:1-20.

1. The _____ = the one who shares the word
2. The _____ = the word of god
3. The _____ = the hearts of the people

4 TYPES OF DIRT

1. _____ (VV. 14-15)
2. _____ (VV. 16-17)
3. _____ (VV. 18-19)
4. _____ (V. 20)

Thank God for the fourth type of soil. The good dirt describes those who receive the Word of God and grow in it! This is displayed by the fact that they bear fruit!

DISTRACTION

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO TEST OURSELVES AT THIS POINT. HOW DO YOU LISTEN TO GOD?

1. Do you ignore Him _____ ?
2. Do you hear Him and then _____ ?
3. Do you hear Him and then get _____ by other things?
4. Do you _____ His word and grow in it?

DISTRACTION

STUDENT SURVEY: DO YOU LISTEN TO GOD

1. Who do you listen to?

2. Whose opinion counts the most to you?

3. Whose approval do you seek and/or whose rejection do you fear?

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you listen to God? _____

5. Which type of dirt was the best description of you? (Hard dirt, shallow dirt, cluttered dirt, or good dirt)? _____

6. What steps will you take to grow in the area of listening to God (check one or more)?

Read 5 or more verses of the Bible each day.

Memorize a verse each week.

Read a devotional book.

Spend time outside in God's creation. Find beautiful places nearby (lake, river, mountain, etc.). Go to those places, sit down, listen and admire God.

If you're not listening to God, make a commitment to spend time listening to Him. Don't fake it. Talk to a leader (even better, ask your parents) about how to have a better devotional life. Ask them to help you make a plan, and set a time each day to intentionally "listen." Who will you talk to about this?

DISTRACTION