

Do You Hear What I Hear?

☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

- Review the article about the unity march in Paris
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.

☐ *Introduce*

Ask: What are the voices you recognize most quickly? Perhaps family members, annoying co-workers, celebrity voices. Could you pick these voices out of a noisy setting? What is it about certain voices that draws us to hear and listen?

Have someone read Acts 19:1-10 out loud, thinking about the ways voices were heard and recognized. Watch the *Bible Background Video*.

☐ *Discuss*

Invite discussion: Most of us heard this week about the tragic terrorist events in Paris. Responses to these events were voiced in several ways. How did you see people voice a response to terrorism in Paris? Perhaps twitter, news stories or the march for unity last Sunday. One interesting story about the march for unity was a moment when the crowd joined in song together. The story goes that someone who lives on a street near where marchers gathered used their speakers to play music. When the song, "Imagine" came on, the crowd joined in singing.

Show the video about the marchers.

☐ *Ask*

- The text today offers a story about hear a voice and responding to that voice. What parts of Samuel's story would have been difficult for you?
- Who do you identify with in Samuel's story? Why?
- The *Bible Background Video* suggests that a understanding God's voice happens best in community. What can a community offer, when trying to discern God's voice?
- How is this marching crowd like a Christian community who experiences calling, or affirms the calling of someone?
- Thinking about the marchers singing along to voice one song, what stands out to you in that image of the

crowd? What is powerful about the crowd singing this song together?

- Other songs were played out the window; they may not have been heard or noticed. What does this story say to you about the things we hear and respond to, and the things we do not listen to?

☐ *Close with Prayer*

Pray to end the session, asking God for ears to hear the voices that call us to peace, mercy and justice. Ask God for courage to join in when we hear songs that call us to action.

By Erin Hall

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