**Contemplative Journey Hearing God Speak**

***The Teaching:***

“God does speak — sometimes one way and sometimes another — even though people may not understand it.” (Job 33:14). What are some of the way in which God speaks to people?

**1. Scripture.** “The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.” (2 Timothy 3:16).

**2. Jesus.** “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)

**3. Thoughts.** “He who formed the mountains reveals his thoughts to mankind.” (Amos 4:13)

**4. Nature.** “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. Day after day they speak; night after night they make him known.(Psalm 19:1-2)

**5. People. “**The godly give good advice to their friends.” (Proverbs 11:14). We learn throughout the book of Proverbs that when we seek godly counsel we can hear the voice of God.

**6. Peace.** "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Colossians 3:15). God’s peace can rule in our hearts. The word rule means to reign or to be a deciding factor. If we don’t have peace about a decision, then it isn’t from the Lord. Don’t move forward unless you have peace.

**7. Silence. “**Be silent in the LORD’s presence and wait patiently for him.” (Psalm 37:7). There are many reasons for God’s silence: maybe he spoke in the past and we did not pay attention, maybe he wants us to follow a difficult path without easing the load to gain strength and stamina or maybe He is teaching us that we have to trust Him even if we are facing the death of a loved one.

**Summary:** God speaks through Scripture; Jesus; Thoughts; Nature; People; Peace and God speaks through Silence.

***The Stations:***

You have 10 minutes to visit some of the stations around the room to hear God. Here is a brief description of what happens at each station:

(1) Scripture: Read the Psalm (Psalm 23:1-4) scripture and ask God to speak to you through it.

(2) Jesus: Read the story of Jesus (John 15:12-17) and ask God what he is saying to you through it.

(3) Thoughts: Take a piece of paper, ask God to speak to you about something specific and write down the thoughts that flow through your mind.

(4) Nature: Look at the picture of the river and ask God to speak to you through it.

(5) People: Share a situation you are facing with a leader and ask they to tell you what they think God is saying to you.

(6) Peace: Think about something you need to decide and make a decision and see if you have peace in your heart about the decision.

(7) Silence: Sit in silence for a few minutes and ask God to speak to you through in the silence.