

## C. Five Aspects for Receiving Your Call.

(Suggested teaching time: 15 minutes)

### Preparing to receive your call

[See Appendix 4C]

1. **Submit to God's rule.** (Lk 9:23)
2. **Study God's Word.** (2Ti 3:16,17)
3. **Surrender to God's shaping process.** (Ro 12:2)
4. **Stop sinning.** (Js 5:16)
5. **Set broken relationships right.** (Heb 12:14,15)
6. **Serve faithfully in the small things.** (Mt 25:21,23)

### 1. Seek God for revelation.

God will reveal Himself to those who seek Him earnestly. Ask God to reveal your calling and make clear what is not yet clear. *... if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding...<sup>3</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.* (Pr 2:3,5)

### 2. Discern the voice of God.

- a. Discerning the voice of God for our calling may be very clear through a powerful encounter with God, like Paul on the Damascus road (Ac 9:15,16; 22:10). However, most of us will not encounter this type of supernatural experience.
- b. For most people, discerning the voice of God will involve the harmonizing of four inputs. This can be represented by the alignment of four harbor lights:



- The written Word of God (objective standard).
- Promptings/peace of the Holy Spirit (subjective witness).
- Input from trusted others (divine confirmation).
- Circumstances (divine providence).

Remind the group that many emerging leaders struggle to receive a calling from God because they are struggling in the areas of preparing to receive their call.

If time permits have the group see Appendix 4C for an expanded look at "Preparing to Receive Your Call."

Refer the group to Module III, *The Leader's Example*, for additional teaching on being guided by God and the discipleship attribute of obedience.

Show Transparency 4-3.

In a certain harbor in Italy, a ship must pass through a narrow channel to reach the shore. Lights have been mounted on poles to navigate the ship at night. When all the lights are aligned, the ship can proceed toward the harbor. But if one is not aligned, the ship risks shipwreck from rocks and shoals. In a similar way, God guides us with His harbor lights.

The Holy Spirit can also prompt us through dreams, visions, and/or other spiritual manifestations.