

God Speaks to Us Through Our Leaders | Cedar Heights Church Sunday Sermon

Dan Digman, June 13, 2021

Speaker 1:

(singing) Can you hear me? All right, good evening, everybody. Welcome to Cedar Heights Church. Uh if you're new to us, we start our services off with a few songs of worship. So why don't you guys stand? And we're going to do that now. (singing)

Dan Digman:

Thank you, Lord. You're the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We uh just thank you for what you were doing during worship. We thank you that during worship is such an awesome time to be able to get our eyes off of ourselves and onto you, Jesus. And I just pray, you would prepare our hearts that what you were doing during worship would prepare our hearts for your Bible this evening. And God, we just thank you for what you're doing in your church. Man, if we knew all the stories, if we knew all the things, if we knew all the things you were doing in each individual heart, in our church, and as our church as a whole, God, we would be blown away. And we just thank you, we worship you for that. And even this next step that we're taking as a church, God, thank you. Lord, you're so good, Father. Bless us. Give us what we need to hear your voice tonight. We pray it in your name. Amen.

Dan Digman:

All right, guys, have a seat. Okay, this is an announcement that I have been waiting almost eight years to make. Next Sunday, we will have service in our own building.

Congregation:

(applause)

Dan Digman:

Yeah, ain't that exciting? If you are new to us, we just purchased a property on the corner of Blue Course and Stratford, so not even a mile from here down the road. And uh we have been working feverishly to uh get that facility ready. And if you walked in there today, you would say there's no way you're going to be ready. But by the grace of God, we're going to be ready on Sunday. Uh and it may mean some sleepless nights for some of us, and uh we'll be, uh you know, looking for any help that we can get. But we're, we're going to have service there. It's going to start uh 9 a.m. with our 9 a.m. service Sunday morning, so a week from today, 9 a.m. And then there'll be a second service at 11. So you pick whichever service you would like. Families, you probably want to get used to starting at the 9 o'clock service, because not this week. But next week, our kids program will start back up. And that might even be more exciting, then.

Congregation:

(applause)

Dan Digman:

(laughs) Yeah, let's see, the parents led the way on that applause. And so um we need a week to get our feet on the ground, we're going to do a training. So if you are a kids worker, there'll be a training after the 11 o'clock service this coming Sunday, um and then that will give us what we need to pull off kids program. Kids program will happen outdoors for the summer, um between the playground at the daycare facility and the pavilion, um and then the playground at the park next. We'll explain all that to you parents. We'll give you more details on that next week, uh in announcements during service, um but

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here we go. Um and so don't come here at 6:30. You will have missed service by hours. Uh come to the new building at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. next Sunday.

Dan Digman:

Now guys, when you come in, it's a work in progress. There won't be any trim. There will be old carpet because our new carpet is on back order uh because of course, so that won't happen until like August. Uh we don't have a stage built yet. We don't have a sound booth. All that stuff is coming. The restrooms hopefully at some point are going to get remodeled. But that's not happened yet either. Uh we have to wait and go through big code process and all that but we've gotten everything done that can be done or we will hopefully by Sunday.

Dan Digman:

Um and so uh man, we're so grateful that we had a place to meet. We thank, so thankful to State College assembly. But guys for the first time in our history, eight years of being a church and state college, we will be in a building where no one's going to tell us when we can be there, what we can do with it. Um and it's ours, and it's going to be a game changer. There are going to be things that we've longed to do as a church that we've not been able to do up to this point. And by God's grace, He's always given us what we've needed. And we've always had the ability to do the main thing, which is make disciples, teach people about Jesus, tell them about who he is, teach them how to follow, help us mature and grow and be useful to God. We'll talk about some of those things tonight.

Dan Digman:

And so we're so grateful for what God has provided over these last eight years. But we are so excited to take this next step as a church. And so uh those of you that have helped already, man, we got more landscaping and, and uh stuff done this weekend than I thought was possible. Um there's just, it's an exciting time right now. And so 9 a.m., 11 a.m. next Sunday, be praying for favor that we get it all done. Okay?

Dan Digman:

All right. We've been in a series God speaks to us, we're gonna wrap that up today. So we're gonna finish that series today. We'll jump into something new next Sunday. Uh but we've been looking at that God does speak to His children. And we need to know that it's true that He does speak. We need to know how to hear Him. And we've looked at so far, five different ways that He speaks. We started week one with the Bible. Week two was prayer. And then week three was prophecy. Uh and then we talked about dreams and visions and nudges. And now this week, we're going to talk about how He speaks through leaders and He speaks through practicals, and practical situations and circumstances. And so if you have a Bible, open to Ephesians chapter four. Ephesians chapter four, we're going to be in just three verses tonight, verses 11 through 13. Uh let me read it. And then we'll walk through it a little bit at a time. Ephesians chapter four, verses 11 through 13.

Dan Digman:

It says this, it says, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." And so when he starts this here, back in verse 11, and he says, and he gave, he's referring here to Jesus, and, and you can read about what he was talking about in the

beginning of verse four, um you know, that, talking about, you know, God and, and Jesus and, and what he did for us and how he came to earth, and back up in heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father, but he's talking about how intricately woven into the church Jesus is, that he is the one orchestrating things.

Dan Digman:

Man, I, I think if, if we thought about it in human terms, we would think, man, we have this building because we sacrificed and we prayed, and we, we did X, Y, and Z. But if we really understood how God worked, and how in control Jesus is of everything, especially his bride, his church, that's what the Bible calls Jesus' church, that's what we are, we are Jesus' bride. That's a powerful image. And I love that image. It's, it's how important the church is to Jesus, but he's in control of this. He's the one who's made everything happen that's happened in our church, and every church that actually preaches Jesus, uh from the beginning of time, from the beginning of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Dan Digman:

And so when he's saying here, and he gave, it was Jesus who gave and then who does he give? The apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and the teachers. Let me summarize that by just saying he gave the leaders in the church. He's describing leadership roles within the church in those things. And so he, Jesus gave the people who lead in his church. And so what we believe wholeheartedly is that our pastors, our small group leaders, our board members are appointed by Jesus to do what it is that they do and to help lead you and be entrusted with your care.

Dan Digman:

You know, we, it's, it's not just our good ideas. It's not just that you know, myself as lead pastor, okay, what, what makes sense, who goes here, who goes there, and we are prayerful, begging God to give us direction and wisdom and guidance and speak to us about who He wants to appoint as future pastors who are going to be future group leaders. And I'll say this, uh as a little bit of an aside, we're going to release some group leaders here pretty soon, like we need to multiply some of our small groups. They're my own small group was 19 people this weekend and 17 children. It was bonkers and so much fun, so much fun. But that's too big.

Dan Digman:

I got to, I got to appoint some leaders. And and half the group is going to go with a new leader and half of us are going to stay and then there's more room for more people to come. But those, those are not just who makes the most sense. It's okay, God you speak. And at the end of the day, we have to believe that He's the one who did this to us. If you're a leader in the church, don't put that on me. I don't want to carry that weight. I want you to put that on Jesus.

Dan Digman:

He appointed me. He's the one who called me and so you guys that are small group leaders in this room. I would say you guys that are pastors, but Nick is at a wedding this weekend, uh not his own uh but a, a friend. Uh I was gonna make a joke there but I shouldn't. Stop Dan, just stop. He's the one who made you a small group leader. He's the one who did it. And when you realize that, when you see that, oh, what relief that is, because if he did it to you, it means he's got to provide for you, right? Small group leaders, right? You need Jesus, you can't do this on your own. You don't have what it takes by your own

strength, your own wisdom, your own mind, your own perseverance. God has to show up. Just like me, tonight, I have nothing to offer if I do all of this by my own knowledge.

Dan Digman:

But if I can walk up here, which I did, trusting that Jesus has appointed me to do this, and beg him, "Please, Jesus, speak through me, use me tonight, make something, make things that I say useful and, and, and convict and encourage and push and call these people to this mission that you've called us to. And I can come up here with confidence, not in myself. But in Jesus who appointed." He did this to you if you're a leader, and what a relief that is because he has to provide. The other thing I want to just, it's a little bit of an aside, but it goes together.

Dan Digman:

What the Bible shows in the New Testament is overseers appointing new overseers, and that overseer word is just a, a biblical way of saying, "Pastor, board member, those sorts of things." Um and even our deacon level leaders would be our small group leaders. And so uh the small group leaders, that deacon role is those assist the pastors in doing what it is that they are called to do, which is what these, these verses are talking about here.

Dan Digman:

But the Bible shows current pastors appointing new pastors, so like for me, I didn't choose to be a pastor. I didn't even know I wanted, I didn't want necessarily, I wondered like, what do you want to do with me, God? But I was coaching track and field at Southern Illinois University, attending Vine Church, that's the church that sent us here, leading a small group. And one day, the lead pastor of that church takes me to a cheap Chinese restaurant in Carbondale, Illinois called New Kahala. And I like Chinese food, but I didn't like that Chinese food very much.

Dan Digman:

But he takes me there and we're eating our General Tso's chicken. And he goes, "Dan, uh I think that Jesus is calling you to be a pastor. And we want you to leave your job, come on staff with the church, and maybe even someday go out and plant a church out of this one." And you know what? After I choked on, no, you know what? Instantly I felt faith. Because a man I trusted with all of my heart, a man that had proven himself to me and a man that I knew agonized before God for His church, called me to him and instantly, I knew what wouldn't I give. I'll do it, Jesus. I'll do it.

Dan Digman:

I think that's the way it's supposed to work. That's the way the Bible shows it. But again, it wasn't his good idea alone. It was him agonizing, and the other overseers agonizing in that church. Hey, is it Dan? Is he the one? Praying, fasting, seeking Jesus, trying to hear him speak. And then at the end of the day, feeling faith that this is in fact what Jesus is doing. So I would ask you, do you trust the leaders here? Do you trust the leaders here? If you're new to us, we want to earn that trust. We want you to see us. We want you to see our character. You want us, I mean we're not perfect. There, James, are you perfect? I certainly am not. We're not perfect. But we want to earn your trust, we want you to see man, we are, we are sacrificing. We are praying like crazy. We are uh people that you can look to and see our character and see, and we want to have positive impact. We want to have the right influence over you, too. We want you to be able to experience when you are being led by us, things that push you. And sometimes those things aren't easy, right? Sometimes it's discipline, sometimes it's calling you out on some things.

Sometimes it's encouraging you and, and but when those things are happening, that you would say, "Oh, man, I trust them."

Dan Digman:

So if you're new to us, we want to earn that trust. But if you can't get there over time, if you would say, "Man, I like worship here. But that Dan guy, he's the worst." That's me, my name is Dan. You would say that, this probably isn't your church home. Or there's some sort of hurt or pain from your past, probably tied to a church. That doesn't allow you to trust me. If in fact, Jesus is calling you here, some of you it may just be assigned. He's not calling you here, if you don't trust the leaders in this church. And some of you are new, let us earn that.

Dan Digman:

But I also know there's a whole lot of people who trust. And guys, for this building, you guys gave \$500,000, so we could be in that space. And that was evidence to me of, of first, thank you God. And second, the church trusts us. The church is in a spot where they're saying, "We will sacrifice greatly for the mission, because we've seen God at work here." That's encouraging to me. I hope it's encouraging to you as well. And even for me, guys, I trust my leaders. I have leaders, we belong to a network of churches that I have other lead pastors that lead me and help me and man, I trust them. They are godly, proven men. They're easy to submit to. And I know that word sound, but that's exactly what the Bible calls you to do to your leaders is submit to them.

Dan Digman:

And again, if you believe that the beginning of this verse is true, and he gave, if you believe that Jesus appointed these leaders, that's easy. That's not oppressive. You know, it's even easy for me to trust my own leaders over my own thoughts and desires. You know, my direct leader, his name is Aaron Kuhnert. He leads one of the churches, one of our network churches in Athens, Ohio, where Ohio University is go Bobcats, I guess. No, no, not go Bobcats. I went to the University of Akron. They were, they were our rival. No, not go Bobcats. Anyway, I'm rambling.

Dan Digman:

But if he said something that I felt, uh I don't know, I would trust him and do it. I would follow him anywhere. I would do anything, because he's proven himself and he's proven to me that he's been appointed by God to lead me. Here it says it in Acts 20:28, I think it'll be on the screen behind you. It says, "Pay careful." He's talking to pastors here, "Pay careful attention to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

Dan Digman:

And so here he's talking about pastors, pay careful attention to yourself, like, I've got to be so careful. I've got to guard myself, I've got to stay close to Jesus, I've got to do all of the, those things. But I also am interested with you guys. You're the flock, the sheep. But the, the important part in there, and it's the same thing that's being said in verse 11, in our verses, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, appointed by God, is again what it's saying in Acts 20, to care for the Church of God, which Jesus obtained with his blood.

Dan Digman:

It's all about Jesus, it's all about his glory. I don't do any of this without Jesus, and his death and resurrection. You don't do anything that God has called you to do without Jesus being willing to humble himself and die on a cross so that you and I, our sins can be forgiven, not to mention be called to lead, be called to use our gifts, be useful to him. That's a whole nother thing. Let, let me start at the very beginning. We're worthy to be used by him, because Jesus died for us. We've got no right to be useful to God. We've got no right to be even in His presence. We're sinful, messed up, broken people. And yet Jesus made a way. He obtained it by his blood. He shed his blood so that we could be a church here, so that we could go into the city and do the things that he's calling us to do, but even back up further so that we could be his children, saved by grace through faith.

Dan Digman:

Men and women that God can look on with great love and tenderness and joy, because he sees us through Jesus in his sacrifice. It's so good. Let's move on to verse 12, to equip the saints, so he's saying, "I gave these leaders in the church.", verse 12, "To equip the saints, for the work of ministry for building up of the body of Christ." And so here it says that as pastors, so Nick and I in this church so far, and we hope that soon there'll be a day where we raise up new pastors, more pastors in this church. But this is our main job. And our group leaders assist us with this work, the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry. Who are the saints? Well, the saints are you, if you know and love Jesus. Okay? If you grew up in a Catholic background, you might see that word saint and say, "That's a tier of Christian that I will never attain to. I will never be that."

Dan Digman:

But don't think of it that way. That's not what it's, that's not what at all what it's saying. It's saying here, that term saints is anyone that's been obtained by Jesus through his blood that we saw in Acts 20:28, anyone that has put their faith in Jesus and loves him and kids worthy by the grace of God to be called God's son or daughter. That's so you, if you know that's true for you, I want you to put your name in here. My job is to equip you for the work of ministry. Another way that can be translated is for the work of service, doing God's work, doing the things that He's called you to do. And so our job is to not just help you with your hurts, to give advice, to heal wounds, although that's part of the maturation process. But our main job is to prepare you, to train you, to call you to do Jesus' work, and that you would love Jesus and want to obey him and want to be useful to him. And then be useful to teach others to do the same, not only to tell them about Jesus and beg that God would use you to help draw them to him in the first place. But then bring them along with you. Help them, help the next generation mature and grow and be useful to Jesus.

Dan Digman:

And really, what it is is to do whatever Jesus calls you to do, and excel in the gifts that he's given you. That's the work of ministry or that's the work of service, and it's my job to equip you for. And to do this, often God will speak things to your leaders for you. And you might say, "Well, why doesn't he just tell me directly? Why doesn't he just speak to me?" Well, I think there's a number of different reasons why, and this is not an exhaustive list but I think these are some important ones. He speaks to you through your leaders, because sometimes you can't see through your own emotions or desires.

Dan Digman:

Ever been there? Look back on some spots in your life where maybe you were dating a person that uh wasn't good for you, or you know, thinking about a job or a career that you could only see one aspect of.

When we are in it ourselves, it's often hard to hear God's voice because of the emotions and the baggage. But in this, if he can use one of your leaders, who isn't as emotionally involved in that, can see maybe a little bit more clearly than you, and speak through some of those things, that can be really helpful. And that can be really powerful. The second reason that I think he's, he sometimes will choose to speak to your leaders instead of directly to you, is because um he wants you to trust them. He wants the ability to prove that he has called them and called them to care directly for you, and that they are actually with you.

Dan Digman:

They're not trying to manipulate. They're not trying to just use that use you for your, their own purposes or, but they're with you. And again, with you to say, "Come on, let's do the work that Jesus has for us. Let's push each other in that. Let's call each other to those things." The third reason why he speaks to your leaders is because he wants you to not just depend on yourself. We are not supposed to do this alone. You need a church. You need people around you that can spur you on and help you and you need leaders. All of us do.

Dan Digman:

The final thing is, uh again, not exhaustive. But the final thing I have written down here is he sometimes, it's to build the confidence of new leaders, or old leaders that are questioning, "Do I have authority anymore?" And so Nick Bastian, when we, when we asked him to come on staff straight out of college, um you know, and, and I, you know, I tested him and we prayed like crazy. And finally the board and I and, and we think he's the guy for sure. And he was in the rough. He was, there was and there was things we had to work through. There was but we knew, and I think Jesus is doing this.

Dan Digman:

But one of the things that Nick early on struggled with and to a point still is working through is, "Do I have as a 25 year old man, do I have what I need to lead people in their 50s, 60s, 70s, people that are older than me?" And it's been fun to see him grow in that. Some of you in this room have benefited from Nick's leadership as a 25 year old whippersnapper that has incredible grace by God to lead you. We have to see it that way. Nick has what, if, if he is entrusted, if you're entrusted to his care, he's going to have what he needs to lead you regardless of if he's lived it or not.

Dan Digman:

And when he is able to help and encourage and convict, build up, push, equip, when he is able to do that for someone that he was a little nervous about at first, his confidence in Jesus can grow. But he speaks through leaders, often for a number of different reasons.

Dan Digman:

Let's go on to verse 13. Until, "So, we want to equip you until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God to mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Very simply, it's saying, until we are perfectly like Jesus, uh oh, we're never going to get there. We're never going to be perfect on this side of heaven. We're going to make mistakes as a church. There are going to be things we fumble through. Relationally, we're not always going to get it right. There's things that he wants, we're constantly going to be growing and being pushed as an entire church, let alone individuals.

Dan Digman:

But this is the standard that we're aiming for. Picture a, picture a bull's eye. In the bull's eye is completely like Jesus, you know, and we're firing the arrows, and we're, we're never going to be on center, we're never going to be fully on target. But that's the goal. That's where we want to be. It's the aim. And so there's always work to be done. And I love these verses that it talks about until we all attain the unity of the faith, like complete and total togetherness. We should experience unity within this church that you can't experience anywhere else. Because it's centered around God, and we are on a single mission to do the work that he's called us to do. You, you won't find it anywhere else outside of a church. And then to say, unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God like that are, we even in the way we think and what we believe about the Bible, it would be together to maturity, and again, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That's the standard.

Dan Digman:

And there's something I really love about this, that we'll never get there. You know, uh and for me, I think it's my, my track background. I was watching the NCAA championships this weekend for Division I track and field at the New Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. None of you, almost none of you in this room care about it. There's a couple of you. But I was reminded of back to my days of competing and coaching. There was always more. You were never there. You're never, you could never do that, the technical part, the training, the you never achieved it. There's always a next step to take. And there's something that I love about that, because it, it keeps us from getting complacent. It keeps us from getting lazy. It keeps us from just sort of laying back. Well, we're, we're there. We're good, we're as good as we're ever going to get. No, there's always a next step that we have to take. There's always a next thing that we've got to do.

Dan Digman:

We can never think we've made it. And so where do we not look like Jesus yet as a church? Where do we not look like Jesus yet? And we've got work to do in lots of different areas, wants to grow in our understanding of how to be a multicultural church. He wants us to grow in our celebratory worship and he wants us to grow in prayer. I think he wants us to grow in humility.

Dan Digman:

How about you as individuals? Where do you not look like Jesus yet? Do you have an hour? I could tell you mine. There's always a next step. Let's keep growing in those things. And let your leaders push you in those things. Don't you want to be equipped to do Jesus' work? I want to see at least one person nod their head. Don't you want to be equipped to do Jesus' work? Christina does. I do. I want us as a church to be equipped, to be useful to him. And leaders don't forget that this is key.

Dan Digman:

And I want you to ask yourself if you're a leader in this church, "Am I equipping the people that He has entrusted to my care?" Small group leaders, are you equipping the people? Nick Bastian, probably watching on our live stream right now. Are you equipping the people? Am I equipping you to do the work of ministry?

Dan Digman:

And then I want to close talking just briefly about God speaking in the practical circumstances of your life. And again, this is the seventh way that we've talked about in this series. But this isn't an exhaustive

list. But this is one where I thought, "Okay, what are the, what are, where can I make a biblical, a clear biblical case for these things?" Last week, when we were looking at Paul, and, and this kind of missionary journey that they were on, it was clear doors were being closed to certain places, to Paul and his team, where God was saying, "Don't go here, but go there."

Dan Digman:

There was practical things that were leading them. And the Bible is full of people being in particular places in life or location where God is speaking. You know, if you know the story of Joseph in the Old Testament, Joseph, sold by his brothers into slavery, better than what they had planned at first, let's kill him and dig a hole and bury him and say he got eaten by animals. Let's go home and tell dad that. That's what they told that anyway. But instead, they thought, let's make money off of this. They sold him into slavery. He ends up in Egypt. And then in Egypt, he's in Egypt. And he's, he's rising up the ranks, people, leaders in Egypt are trusting him. Then God speaks through a dream. I talked about that last week about this famine that was coming. And then the famine comes but because years before Joseph had this dream, not only was Egypt spared, but the Israelites, and, and, and, and um, uh, why am I, why am I drawing a blank?

Dan Digman:

Hold on, I lost the name. Joseph had already said it. Gosh, Joseph, because he had this dream, his family comes in. And most of you, a lot of you know the story. At the end of the day, not only was all of Egypt spared. By the grace of God, most people that didn't even believe in God in the first place, Joseph was there to help rescue those people. But it also was for his family. And God used it for good, put him in the places that He wanted him to be. And I think when we think of this one, when we think of God speaking in practical circumstances, it comes down to do you have trust that God is completely sovereign?

Dan Digman:

And what I mean by that is, do you trust that he knows all and is in control of all? He knew everything you would do today before you got to church this evening. And more than that, he knew everything that people around you would do, and what the whole world would do and where they would be and what they would be doing. He knows all and is in control of all. I don't have this verse on the screen but Proverbs 16:9 says this, "The heart of man plans his way but the Lord establishes his steps."

Dan Digman:

So we can plan, we can scheme, we can go where we want to go but ultimately, it's God who plans our steps, who establishes our steps. And this gets, these practical things, it could be something as simple as just meeting a need that you can meet for someone else in the church. I remember about a year and a half ago, uh Caleb Cook, um one of our group leaders, I talked about Sarah last week, his wife, in the middle of their cancer battle, uh their, their water heater broke. Oh, I've changed the uh heating element on a water heater. I can do that. So I thought, "All right, I'm gonna go. I'm going to buy the parts. I'm going to go and, and change out this, this heating element. They, they can come home and not have to worry about this."

Dan Digman:

You know, and even in that, that God was orchestrating that you have to know like, and He can orchestrate those things and even though it feels, felt like my own desire, I think it was God leading and speaking, "Hey, you can meet that practical need." It can be in those little things like that where major

things like, "Man, I'm supposed to go on this next church plant because of the spot of life I'm in." You know, I'm, I'm just out of college or I'm single or we're newly married without kids and not that God won't call you His families to go on church plants to. He will. Just so thankful for the families that came on this church plant to start this one.

Dan Digman:

But the spot of life you're in, he speaks in all of those things. And if we can have our minds on God and every practical situation, I think we would find ourselves that He would direct more and more, that we would hear His voice more and more in those things, where we're constantly asking things like, "Do you have me in this spot for a reason?" And maybe it's just in the spot that you're in today. I've, I've been a lot in Lowe's lately, buying a lot of things or breaking something and going to Lowe's to get a, to repair something that I messed up. Okay, got it. I'm going to Lowe's, I broke that thing. Do you need me in Lowe's? Who's there? Who can I talk to? Who can I show the love of Jesus to? Things like that, asking him, "What are you doing right now? Why am I here?" Big picture and small picture as well, day to day life and major life events. So guys, all in all, as we close this series, I'll say similar to what I did last week, I hope at the very least, that this series has and will continue to give you a longing for God to speak more frequently to you and more clearly to you.

Dan Digman:

And to trust that He does, in fact, speak to His children and will continue to speak until He returns. And I said this last week, but I want to say it again. But when He returns, we will never have to question, "Is that you, God or not?" In this life, we have to. We can read our Bible and know that it's absolutely God. But all the other ways, I think it's you, God. I want to believe it's you. I think you're speaking in this way. I think you're directing. I think you're guiding. But guys, church, there's a day coming, where we'll never have to question that again, where we're seeing God face to face. We're speaking and communicating, and we know that everything is good, because all evil and sickness and brokenness past, has passed away. And the only thing left will be things that are good and righteous and holy. And we'll never question is it God or not? But now, here and now, "Oh, God, speak to us. Let us hear your voice. Let us know it's you. Speak to your children."

Dan Digman:

Let's go out and stand. Let's pray. The worship team is going to come up. Um I'm going to pray over us quickly. And then invite uh some of you down front to receive prayer while we worship to this last song. And so some of us will be worshipping. Some of us will be down front asking someone to pray for us. And some of us are on the prayer team will be the ones that will come and pray for you uh if there are things you would like prayer for. Um let me pray over us first, and then I'll uh invite you down front to receive prayer.

Dan Digman:

Jesus, you're good. You're so kind to us. And God, I do thank you that you speak to your children. I thank you for even the ways that we talked about you speak tonight through your leaders that you appoint through practical life situations and circumstances. But God, how grateful are we that you don't just kind of leave us alone or just leave us to our own devices, our own thoughts, our own, and to figure this out on our own, but you direct and guide and speak. You encourage and equip.

Dan Digman:

God Speaks to Us Through Our Leaders | Cedar Heights Church Sunday Sermon

Dan Digman, June 13, 2021

And so God let us hear your voice. Let us believe wholeheartedly, it's you Jesus. Let us know you're in control. And God, I do pray would you equip us to do your work? Would you give me grace as a leader to equip these people to do the work that you've called them to? Would you do that for other pastors? We could do that for our small group leaders and our overseers, God that you would give us what we need to call your people to your work. And I pray that as we're called to it, God that we would do it. And I thank you that each man and woman in this room is gifted differently and called to different things. But the one thing that we all are called to is to go out there and tell people about you Jesus.

Dan Digman:

Thank you, Lord. And as people come and, and ask for prayer, I pray you'd speak to them. I pray you give the people praying discernment and wisdom to hear from you. And as we're worshiping, I pray you do the same Lord. So if you need prayer, I would ask you to start walking up now. Uh maybe it's because you're a leader and you want to have more confidence to equip the people that you lead. For some of you, it's you're struggling with something a leader has said. But you're realizing it might be God. Others of you, it's just practical needs that you need right now or anything at all. If you need prayer for anything, will you come down now for the rest of us will worship to this last song? Um if you have a mask on, we will put a mask on too while we're praying for you.

Speaker 1:

(singing)

Dan Digman:

God, as we close this chapter meeting in this facility and begin to transition over into the facility that you've provided for us, God I just, just pray give us joy as we do it. I pray that your church would be full of joy as we exit this place and that God we would celebrate next week as we gather in the, in the place that you've set aside for us. And God, keep speaking to your children, and keep giving us what we need to do your work. We pray it in your name, Jesus. Amen. All right, guys. Have a good week. We'll see you right over there next week.