



Listening to God (LBS)

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“One of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s most important contributions to the evangelical church at large has been the popularization of, motivation for, and training for inductive Bible study.”

– **Andy Le Peau**, editorial director, InterVarsity Press

Creating a Legacy of Inductive Bible Study

Since the publication of the first LifeGuide® Bible Study (LBS), *Genesis*, in 1985, InterVarsity Press has been striving to create accessible Bible studies for individuals and groups.

In 1982, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff member Jack Kuhatchek and IVP editors Andy Le Peau and Jim Hoover conceptualized what became LifeBuilder Bible Studies (soon renamed LifeGuide® Bible Studies). The idea was to produce a quality series of Bible study guides that would be relevant and inductive and appeal to both Christian students and laypeople in churches. The first seven studies were published in 1985, with a plan to have an LBS for almost every book of the Bible as well as numerous topical studies.

“Over ten million LifeGuide® Bible Studies have been distributed around the world since InterVarsity Press first started publishing them in 1985,” says Cindy Bunch, associate editorial director and LBS series editor. “They are designed to create conversation around Scripture passages. The discussion format is easy to lead, and the focus on a single chapter of Scripture allows everyone to enter the conversation, even those with little prior knowledge about the Bible. LifeGuide® Bible Studies create a context for God’s Word to speak into our lives today.”

Editors and authors include the late John Stott, J. I. Packer, Jack Kuhatschek, Dale and Sandy Larsen, Rebecca Pippert, Patty Pell, James Sire, Paul Borthwick and many others. With over one hundred titles currently in print, IVP has accomplished its original goal to cover the Old and New Testaments, Bible characters and major Christian themes.

In this most recent LifeGuide, *Listening to God*, Carolyn Nystrom walks the reader through questions like

- Does God hear us?
- Does God speak?
- How can we connect with God when all seems to be lost?
- What is our role in listening?

Through exploring biblical characters and teaching, the ten studies in this LifeGuide Bible study help us understand how to seek and find an ever-deeper dialogue with God.

Carolyn writes, “People of our era are not responsible for creating Holy Scripture, as were many of these God listeners. But we have those Scriptures by which God speaks to us. What can we learn from them about the spiritual discipline of listening to God?”

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