**4. Listening to the Bible**

**The traditional spoken word**

Traditionally, God’s will has been revealed to His people through the spoken word (Deut. 31:10-12; Neh. 8:1-13; Rom. 10:17; Rev. 1:3). In fact, listening to a speaker was the only means by which most people could receive biblical teaching before the introduction of printing. Today, gospel sermons, Bible lessons, and devotional messages still convey God’s Word in a direct and personal way through the spoken word.

**Electronic technology**

Through modern electronic technology, the Bible has been recorded in many languages. The visually impaired and those who do not read well may benefit from listening to recordings of the Bible text. The Bible can be easily and inexpensively downloaded to computers, iPods, MP3-Players, and cell phones. Christians may hear God’s Word as they travel and during quiet devotional times. Skilled listeners might even realize connections and meanings they would not have gotten through traditional reading methods. Christians can easily hear the entire Bible in less than a year in electronic format.

**The benefits of simultaneous listening and reading**

Bible comprehension can be further increased by reading the Bible while listening to an electronic recording. In this way, understanding is increased by listening and seeing at the same time. Benefits of reading while listening include:

* Improved comprehension skills.
* Improved listening skills.
* Increased vocabulary.
* Proper pronunciation of words.
* A better sense of narrative structure.
* Improved visualization of the narrative without illustrations.

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Date: \_\_\_ Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study Method(s): Inductive ( 1 or 2 ) / Associative / Devotional

Step I: What does this text mean?

Step II: What does this text mean to me?

Step III. How can I apply this text to my life?

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