

# WHISPER



by  
Mark Batterson

Discussion and Reflection Guide

# Discussion and Reflection Guide for *Whisper* by Mark Batterson

## Prologue: The Tomatis Effect

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## Chapter One: The Bravest Prayer

1. Describe a time when you heard God whispering to you. Why do you think He whispered instead of shouted?

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2. Mark gives several ideas of ways to invite more silence into our days, such as deleting a few apps, taking a break from social media, and not checking email before nine in the morning. What is one thing you could do this week to cultivate more silence in your life?

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3. How do you feel about the idea of listening to God? Do you believe it's possible to hear God speak?

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## Chapter Two: The Voice

1. Mark writes that God speaks a unique language to each of us. What would you say is the primary way God speaks to you today or has spoken to you in the past?

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2. Describe a time or a place where the *power* of God and the *love* of God were both evident.

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3. What is the bravest prayer you could pray today?

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## Chapter Three: The Whispering Spot

1. Do you have a “whispering spot” where you meet with God or where God once met you? If not, where might a good whispering spot be during this season of your life?

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2. Do you believe God speaks only through Scripture? Why or why not?

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3. What are some examples in Scripture of God showing up in unexpected places and ways?

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## Chapter Four: Sign Language

1. How can we use Scripture as a “sounding board” for the ways God reveals Himself to us? Why is it crucial to test emotions and opportunities against Scripture?

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2. Has there ever been a time when you dismissed God’s voice because it came to you in an unexpected way? When did you realize God may have been speaking to you?

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3. What is the hardest part of learning a new language? How might that truth apply to the new languages Mark wants to introduce you to?

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## Chapter Five: The Key of Keys—Scripture

1. In what way is Scripture the key language that unlocks all the other languages God uses to speak to us?

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2. What is the difference between treating the Bible as an end in itself and treating it as a means to an end?

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3. Describe a time the Holy Spirit “quickened” you as you read the Bible.

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4. Mark writes, “The surest way to get into the presence of God is to get into the Word of God” (page 73). How does this perspective keep us from using Scripture as simply a nice source of inspiration or considering God as a “genie in a bottle”?

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5. How does *doing* something about what we read in Scripture become a part of listening to God?

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## Chapter Six: The Voice of Gladness—Desires

1. Would you say you enjoy God? Why or why not?

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2. What biases does our culture have against associating God with pleasure or delight?

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3. At what place in your life do your desires and your gifts overlap?

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4. Do you tend to welcome or dismiss your emotions? Describe a time when God used your emotions to guide you. Describe a time when your emotions derailed you. What made the difference?

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5. What would listening to God through your God-given desires look like for you today? How would it change the choices you make in how you spend your time and energy?

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## Chapter Seven: The Door to Bithynia—Doors

1. What is the difference between interpreting Scripture via signs and interpreting signs via Scripture?

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2. When have you been grateful, looking back, for God closing a door in your life? How did that closed door lead to an open door?

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3. If you are facing a decision in your life right now, whether big or small, spend time putting it through the five tests Mark outlines on pages 100-102. What did you discern about the will of God through these tests?

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4. With Balaam's donkey in mind, in what surprising way might God be speaking to you today?

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## Chapter Eight: Dreamers by Day—Dreams

1. Describe a time when someone else's dream changed you.

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2. Do you believe God speaks through night dreams the way he did in Bible times? Why or why not?

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3. Mark writes that accomplishing a God-given dream is a secondary goal. The primary goal is who you become in the process (page 127). How does this perspective change how you view a current dream you have?

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## Chapter Nine: Hidden Figures—People

1. Mark writes, “You tell me your excuse, and I’ll tell you where God wants to use you” (page 133). What parts of your personality have been crutches as you seek to respond to God’s calling? What excuses do you need to confess?

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2. Have you ever confessed your sins, excuses, and fears to another person? Who in your life could you confess to this week as a part of your healing process? How might your confession bring healing to the other person as well?

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3. When has someone pointed out a truth about you that you didn’t see in yourself? How did that experience change you?

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## Chapter Ten: The Archer's Paradox—Promptings

1. What might God be doing in your life right now for the sake of someone else (see page 153)?

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2. Mark encourages us not to ignore the impact of obeying God's prompts. How might the whispers of God you are hearing today echo throughout eternity?

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3. Why does God speak to us in different ways and often with repetition? What does this tell us about His character?

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4. Mark writes, "The status-quo bias is a major impediment to spiritual growth. And if we aren't careful, it'll keep us from discerning God's promptings" (page 160). How might your current status quo be keeping you from hearing God's promptings to do something new?

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5. What idea or dream in your life gives you chills when you think about it? What feeling of restlessness do you have in your life that might be the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

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## Chapter Eleven: Joystick—Pain

1. When have you chosen to go through a painful experience because of the greater good it would bring?

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2. Mark writes, “If you want to know where God will use you, you need look no further than your pain” (page 176). How has this been true in your life? How might it be true of your pain today?

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3. What would you say is your greatest weakness? How might God use that as a strength in your life?

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4. What does it look like to praise God in the midst of pain without denying your pain?

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## Epilogue: The Whisper Test