

"I absolutely loved *God Has a Sound* by Lyndal J. Walker, our amazing Prayer Director at Youth for Christ! This book is a game-changer—an invitation to truly hear God in a world that's filled with distractions. Lyndal beautifully unpacks the many ways God speaks, from His gentle whispers to His mighty declarations, making it clear that His voice is the one we simply can't afford to miss. Reading this book felt like having coffee with a friend who reminds you to tune in to heaven's frequency. It's relevant for today—whether you're a seasoned believer or longing to hear God more clearly. The stories she tells are vibrant, relatable, and filled with wisdom. Lyndal, you are a gift to the body of Christ! Thank you for reminding us to listen to the sound that truly matters. I highly recommend this book—it's already transforming me, and I know it will do the same for you!"

Nihanya Macharia, Board Chair, Youth for Christ International

"I was captivated by the very first line and pulled into the text, page after page; Lyndal provides biblical evidence, historical realities and people's real experiences of the God who speaks, not just thousands of years ago but to this very day. If we are honest, what we really desire from our walk with God is to hear His voice. Lyndal helps us to find ways to turn down the noise of life and to become attentive to discovering how God is speaking directly to you and me."

Neil O'Boyle, National Director of British Youth for Christ

"My YFC colleague has penned a beautifully structured and illustrated book. It encourages us to grow in listening to God and worshipping Him, who loves us. This eye-catching book invites you and me to contribute an 11th chapter with our own story. Let's continue sharing these inspiring stories."

Edward de Kam, Senior Adviser for Youth for Christ Europe, Middle-East and North Africa

"Rich in biblical insights and personal illustrations, Lyndal J. Walker has authored a compelling guide that serves as a much-needed gift to the body of Christ. Anyone eager to deepen their friendship with Jesus, enhance their spiritual discernment, and learn how to listen to and interact with the voice of God will find this book a powerful and practical resource. *God Has a Sound* takes readers on an accessible journey through the experiences of various individuals: biblical authors, theologians, church leaders throughout history, and ordinary saints from around the globe, equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to enrich their experience of God. *God Has a Sound* also features stunning visuals that stir the imagination and help readers engage all their senses, enabling us to 'taste and see that the Lord is good.' A must-read!"

Tim Horman, Senior Minister, One Church, Melbourne, Australia

"From the very beginning of this book, it's crystal clear that Lyndal is a passionate woman of prayer. She shares transformative ways to connect with God, offering compelling examples from the Word of God, international colleagues, and inspiring stories of historical figures known for their deep prayer lives. Get ready to be profoundly challenged and inspired!"

Karen Bott, Health and Resiliency Advisor, Youth for Christ Canada

"I'm so happy to have read this lovely little book. It's timely and very readable. Lyndal has done excellent research, and the inclusion of stories makes the content accessible to everyone. Our God is a 'speaking' God. While the Scriptures remain our anchor for truth, He desires to communicate with us humans in many varied ways, as Lyndal describes."

Fran Wylie, wife, mother, grandmother and teacher for Christian Academy, Ireland

God Has a Sound

Discovering the voice of God through the stories of His people



LYNDAL J WALKER

ARTWORK *by* KYLIE INGLIS



YOUTH FOR CHRIST
INTERNATIONAL

A Note on Quotations from the Bible

Sometimes different translations of the Bible give a different perspective on the Word of God.

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Cover Artwork: 'Shifting Shadows' by Kylie Inglis www.kylieinglis.com

Cover design and typesetting: Leysa Flores www.leysafloresdesign.com.au

Editing: inksnatcher.com

ISBN: 978-1-7365039-2-8

Published by: Youth for Christ International, Denver, Colorado. 2025.

*To Warwick: Thank you for being an example of what it means
to listen to and respond to God's voice. You listen well, brother.*

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Foreword



By Adam Shepski

As a disciple of Jesus, missionary, author and the executive director of Disciple a City (a growing ministry in Canada), I have an incredible need to hear the voice of God. Whether I am leading a ministry trip, preaching or building a national ministry, the joy of hearing God's voice has produced incredible fruit. As I have learned to obey Jesus through Bible reading and prayer, I have found surrounding myself with friends who hear God's voice an invaluable tool for my spiritual growth. Lyndal Walker is one of those dear friends.

I first met Lyndal at the beginning of 2015 at a Youth for Christ Australia staff conference, where I was the guest speaker while being part of the Youth for Christ Canada National Team. Before moving into Disciple a City full-time, I worked and travelled internationally to minister with Youth for Christ. This included travelling through an African desert

– on a near-broken bus – and dancing before the Lord in an Australian stadium, seeing thousands respond to Jesus. Lyndal is one of the most encouraging people I know. I have watched her lead youth, leaders and an entire organisation in prayer. Her faith and character are marked by humility, which has brought consistency to her leadership. This is why she has been entrusted with prayer leadership for the precious and effective ministry of Youth for Christ.

I was very excited when Lyndal told me she was writing a book about God's voice! All I know and appreciate about Lyndal is her love of Jesus and desire to help others hear His voice. The book you are about to read is written by someone who has prioritised her life around God's voice and direction. Lyndal lives the reality of what she writes, which gives her an incredible ability to communicate our need to hear God's sound.

I have heard the sound of God. I heard His voice just before a friend shared the gospel with me. I heard His voice at a prayer meeting when I first started attending church, and I heard His voice when I began reading the Bible. When I hear His voice, I have the opportunity to respond and obey; therefore, hearing God's voice has been the most transformative experience of my life.

The Bible is full of stories and examples of God speaking. This book shares the many varied ways God speaks through some of these stories and through historical and contemporary examples from people of faith around the world. When I study the Bible, I can easily conclude that God is still speaking today. Sadly, with all the incredible ways God has spoken to me, I am still far too

unfamiliar with how He speaks. I long to hear every word and intention of His heart.

What I love about *God Has a Sound* is that Lyndal has prioritised the connection between hearing God's voice and Jesus's command to make disciples and fulfil the Great Commission. Her choice of chapters and stories honours her calling – and Youth for Christ's mission – to share the gospel with young people, no matter what! In chapter four, 'God Speaks through Visions', Lyndal shares the story of a young woman, Perpetua, who was martyred for her faith. Stories like hers give purpose to a vision from the Lord. It helped her endure intense persecution from the authorities of her time and allowed her to accept the outcome of persecution, a theme that is important for our own time in history and the reality of so many Christians, including YFC workers, around the world. As Perpetua's story highlights, we are called to expect that God will speak when we ask Him to.

I also love Kylie's artwork. These ethereal paintings add life and colour to the biblical narratives and helped me be fully immersed in the stories.

God Has a Sound has been more than another book for me. It has been an invitation to listen with my entire being. Lyndal's book, packed not just with stories but solid theology, has helped lead me to a fuller understanding of all the ways God speaks and left me hungry to hear Him more. Lyndal writes, 'God has a voice, and humans can hear it!' which challenged me to accept all the ways God speaks and ignited my faith to respond when He does.

Reading *God Has a Sound* will expand your understanding of how God speaks and give you faith to hear what He is saying to you. If you're like me, you want God to use your life. Lyndal's book will give you a framework to partner with God's voice and step into what God has called you to do. Savour each chapter and the stories within. Listen to what Jesus is saying, and you will find the direction, comfort and the provision you need to fulfil what He has called you to do.

Rev. Adam Shepski

Executive Director, Disciple a City

Missionary and author of *Untamed Obedience: How Simply Following Jesus Can Impact History*.





“Listen”

Introduction



God has a voice! And this voice has a sound. Do you know this? As one who has been in the practice of hearing God's voice for many years, I've known how He has spoken to me and others, but it wasn't until I was fasting and praying in February 2024, about a particular decision, that it became glaringly apparent that God has a sound. In the middle of the night, as I was tossing and turning from the turmoil of making this decision, I got out of bed to kneel and pray. I asked God what He wanted to say to me, and I was directed to Ezekiel chapter 10. As I began reading about Ezekiel's vision, verse 5 stood out.

‘And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, *like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks*’ (Ezekiel 10:5 NKJV, my emphasis).

I didn't particularly know why I was directed to this chapter – it didn't seem to relate to what I was praying about – until that verse hit. You see, I had attempted to start this book in 2022 and had been making extremely slow progress due to a hectic 2023 with General Assembly¹ preparation. It was like

God was saying, ‘Now is the time to get writing.’ The decision was made, and I began writing in earnest.

Returning to the verse in Ezekiel, we can assume two things about God’s voice when He speaks. Firstly, *God’s voice is loud*. I don’t know how far it is to the outer court from the entrance to the temple where the cherubim were (v. 3), but I assume it to be quite the distance² (if you’re a Bible nerd, you can find out and let me know). This is what David, the shepherd King of Judah and Israel, says about the Lord’s voice, as recorded in Psalms:

The voice of the Lord is on the waters;

The God of glory thunders,

The Lord is over many waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful,

The voice of the Lord is majestic.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

Yes, the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon in pieces ...

The voice of the Lord divides flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

The Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth

And strips the forests bare;

And in His temple everything says, “Glory!”

(Psalm 29:3–5, 7–9 NASB, my emphasis)

Wow, there are a lot of metaphors there, but what stands out is the noise and power! Ezekiel also uses the metaphor of God’s voice sounding like ‘many waters’ when describing God’s movement back into the temple in Jerusalem. In the

New Testament, John uses the terminology ‘roar of many waters’ when describing the voice of Jesus in heaven.

I’ve stood on the edge of Niagara Falls, on the border of Ontario, Canada and New York, USA, and I can tell you, these ‘many waters’ from four out of the five Great Lakes do roar! It is reported that the noise is between 87 and 95 decibels up close, about the same loudness as thunder!³ Isn’t that interesting as David uses thunder in the same verse as ‘over the waters’. Also, it isn’t the only time David describes God’s voice this way (see 2 Samuel 22:14 NASB). Job, that blameless man who feared God and was tested mightily by Satan, also described the thundering voice of God:

Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice,
to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven
and sends it to the ends of the earth.
After that comes the sound of his roar;
he thunders with his majestic voice.
When his voice resounds,
he holds nothing back.
God’s voice thunders in marvellous ways;
he does great things beyond our understanding.
(Job 37:2–5 NIV)

Even in the New Testament, when a voice came from heaven in response to Jesus praying, ‘Father, glorify your name,’ the crowd who heard it thought it had thundered. Only Jesus could hear the Father say, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again” (John 12:28).

Secondly, from the verse in Ezekiel 10, we can assume that *God's voice can be known*. We can assume that Ezekiel had heard God's voice before because Ezekiel was able to describe that the sound of the wings of the Cherubim was *like* the voice of God. Of course, when we look back at the beginning of Ezekiel, we find that Ezekiel did indeed know the voice of God. In chapter 1, verse 24, he describes the sound of the wings of the living creatures as being 'like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty' (Ezekiel 1:24 NKJV), and when he sees the glory of the Lord, he falls on his face and he '*heard a voice of One speaking*' (v. 28, my emphasis). Chapter 2 and what follows tells of what the Lord spoke to him, which I won't expand on here. But do read it for yourself.

God has a voice, and humans can hear it! So why am I using stories in this book? What do stories have to do with God's powerful voice that can be heard? Because stories are a powerful means of communicating a message. We remember stories that have impacted us. In addition, there are three other significant reasons why stories are important, as pointed out by my local pastor⁴. Firstly, stories build community by highlighting commonalities, providing a sense of belonging, encouraging participation, sparking conversations, connecting with emotions, and fostering good relationships. Unity is a core value in Youth for Christ (YFC)⁵, and as you read the stories of different YFC 'family members', I trust that you will see these things emerging within your own context. Secondly, stories build faith in the listener or, in this case, the reader. The stories selected here are a combination of both the miraculous and the very ordinary. Yet, all encourage greater faith in those willing to

embrace the mark of the Divine. Thirdly, stories are a weapon. Revelation 12:11 says that our testimony is one of our tools against the devil. When we share stories of God's goodness, provision, faithfulness, love and, in this case, the way He has spoken (often in response to prayer), we counteract the lies the devil tells about us and God. The Enemy of our soul shudders at the stories of how God has spoken to His people because they are a means of advancing God's kingdom in this world.

From the very first pages of the Bible to its last, we discover that God has a voice and wants to be heard. From the creation of the world, where His voice made something out of nothing (Genesis 1:1–2), and His first words to humans, 'Be fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:28), to the culmination of the Lord's return in Revelation 22, where Jesus (who is God) says 'Behold, I am coming soon' (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20), the Bible is replete with stories of God speaking to us, His most precious of creations. All for the sake of us knowing Him and His ways. Through these stories, we discover that God can and does speak in various ways. But what does that mean for us today? Does God still speak in that loud, booming voice evident in the pages of the Scriptures? Can I hear God for myself? What might He sound like to me? By exploring some of these biblical stories and discovering how He has spoken to different historical figures and some of the YFC family, I hope you can start answering these questions yourself, and your hunger will grow to hear Him more clearly and follow Him more nearly⁶.

In addition, I am delighted to have collaborated with the very talented Kylie Inglis, who has brought this book to life

with her stunning artwork. These images are meant to be examined and prayerfully pondered as another means of God communicating to you (read about this in chapter 7).

May the sound of God penetrate your spirit as you read these stories and admire the beautiful artwork.

Lyndal J. Walker

Prayer Director, YFC International

Melbourne



¹ General Assembly is a triennial conference run by Youth for Christ International for the global Youth for Christ family.

² From the research I've done, there is no certainty. Some say it could have stretched as far as 75 metres from the inner court. See <https://www.swcs.com.au/tabernacle.htm#Temple> (Accessed 13 February 2024).

³ <https://nyfalls.com/niagara-falls/faq-2/> para 10 (Accessed 12 March 2024).

⁴ Notes from Darren Rowse, email 12 July 2024.

⁵ Youth for Christ is an evangelistic organisation established in 1944 in the USA. It is now in around 133 nations with the aim of giving every young person in every people group in every nation the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus and become part of the local church. For more information go to: <https://yfc.org/about/>

⁶ 'Hear Him more clearly and follow Him more nearly' are inspired by the lyrics of the DC Talk song 'Day by Day': [https://www.google.com/search?q=Day+by+Day+lyrics+\(D-C+Talk\)&oq=Day+by+Day+lyrics+\(DC+Talk\)&gs_lcrp](https://www.google.com/search?q=Day+by+Day+lyrics+(D-C+Talk)&oq=Day+by+Day+lyrics+(DC+Talk)&gs_lcrp)



“They Opened Their Treasure Chests”

Chapter One

God speaks through creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
... And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was
very good.

(Genesis 1:1 and 31 NASB)

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

(Psalm 19:1–4 NIV)

Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

(Romans 1:20 NIV)

‘God, why haven’t I experienced your glory the way Alex⁷ has?’ was my cry one night as I lay in bed, unable to sleep. The inner voice, becoming familiar to me, replied, ‘Go outside and look up.’ As it neared midnight, I dragged myself out of bed and stepped out of the side door. The night was dark, with no moon or streetlight in sight. As I emerged into this great darkness in the Australian bush and looked up, I realised why I had been invited to leave my bed and go outside. I looked up and stood in awe as the 100 billion stars of the Milky Way⁸ cried out, ‘The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands’ (Psalm 19:1 NIV).

‘You don’t have to experience My glory like others have. My glory is all around you,’ came the voice. Okay, I get it, God. My memory of that precious moment will never leave me. That night, God unequivocally spoke to me through His magnificent creation.

God’s creation is very good. Do you believe that? In a world that is ‘groaning’ (see Romans 8:19–22) with myriad problems, our view of God’s good creation can sometimes be obscured. Yet it is evident in God’s Word that creation is one way He desires to speak to His people. Before a word was written in the Book⁹, before a command was given to Moses, before David described what the voice of God was like, there was a

blanket of stars and a luscious landscape shouting, ‘Look how glorious the Creator is!’

A star like no other

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written:

“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they

saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.

(Matthew 2:1–11a NIV)

When it comes to a biblical story of God speaking through His creation, we must dig deep. We don't necessarily have a straightforward biblical narrative to demonstrate this – unless you want to count God speaking through a donkey!¹⁰

I have chosen the familiar story of the great star that led some pagan astrologers¹¹ to a newborn king. For those who are regular church attendees at Christmas, there is likely not a Christmas that goes by when this story is not retold. The narrative typically told goes something like this: three Magi, otherwise known as wise men, travel from a distant land in the East following a bright star to offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to a newborn king, who is the baby Jesus – sleeping snugly in an animal feeding trough surrounded by sheep, goats, cows and His mum and dad, with possibly a shepherd or two thrown in. However, when we dig into this story, there is much to unpack, and this narrative is challenged. Firstly, we don't even know if there were three wise men, as it's not stated in the biblical story. Secondly, the fact that the story says it was a star doesn't necessarily mean it was one, as the Greek word here is a term used for a wide range of celestial bodies. Thirdly, with the timing of events in this story, we know that when the Magi arrived, Jesus was no longer a newborn but a toddler. Thus, the shepherds, whom

the angels told to go and see the baby in a manger, were long gone¹³.

Since the aim here is to reveal how God speaks through creation, I want to focus on the second point above: what part of God's creation did God use to 'speak' to these men from the East? I've read this story many times but only recently *really* noticed what it says in verse 2: 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw *his* star when it rose and have come to worship him' (my italics). It wasn't any old star, of which there are an estimated septillion (I didn't even know that was a number) in the universe¹⁴. It was '*his* star'! How did these most likely pagan professional astrologers recognise and follow a star that led them to the Jewish Messiah?

It is important to note that in these ancient times, both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) believed that you could see signs in the heavens that pointed to significant events. Astrology was widespread throughout the Roman world, especially in the Near East, and astrology practitioners (astronomers of the times) were highly respected¹⁵. These ancient astrologers would have kept a close watch on the skies at a time when there were growing expectations of a Messianic king¹⁶. It is speculated that these astrologers were from Babylon, the ancient city where the Jews were exiled in the sixth century BC; therefore, they would have been familiar with the Jewish Scriptures and the prophetic insights the Scriptures gave¹⁷.

While different scholars over the centuries have had various theories as to what the star was¹⁸, modern tools used in astronomy mean that you can see exactly what was happening in the sky around the time that Jesus was born (which, by the