

## Parable of the Sower



# What Difficulties

# Do You Have Tuning In To God?

**Purpose of Presentation:** On the Marriage Encounter Weekend, the Parable of the Sower was used to make us aware of the state of our openness to our spouse and his feelings. This month in Image we will consider how open we are to God and what he is trying to tell us. Do we listen to God openly without selfishness or do we only hear what we want to hear? What difficulties do we encounter in trying to hear God? The purpose of this talk is to share our experiences and feelings about how we "tune in" to God.

### Preparation for Meeting By Presenting Couple

**Method:** A. Read the book "He Touched Me" by John Powell.

- B. Do your written personal reflection and conjugal dialog on the following questions:
1. When have I felt "tuned in" to God? How did it make me feel?
  2. What difficulties do I have "tuning in" to God? How do I feel about them?
  3. How have I heard God talk to me through my:  
Mind  
Emotions  
Imagination  
Will  
Memory  
How do I feel about these experiences?
- C. Phone **only** question #2 above to members of your Image group so they may dialog to prepare for the Image evening.
- D. Using the following outline (or devise your own) fill in the experiences and feelings you have uncovered while dialoging on the above questions.  
**Warning** — Do not give a book review on Powell's book. Use his background information for your own examples and feelings.

### Outline of Talk

#### I. Introduction (2 min.)

Each spouse explains briefly what "tuning in" to God means to him. (Radio and TV waves are there but we can't receive them unless we turn on the set. Likewise, if God exists, we won't experience Him if we are not open and tuned in.)

#### II. Body (14 min.)

Using Powell's book, pg. 74-82 as background material, each spouse share one or two instances where he has experienced God through his mind, emotion, imagination, will or memory. Explain all the details of the experience. How did you feel before, during and after the experience?

If you think that God has never spoken to you in any of the ways Powell suggests, how does that make you feel? Explain fully in loving detail.

Do you "tune in" to God in other ways? How?

#### III. Conclusion (4 min.)

Each spouse share an experience where he has had difficulty hearing God. How did you feel at the time? How do you feel about it now? Tell honestly the difficulties and struggles you have being open to God. How do you feel about these difficulties?

**Remember** — the most important part of your talk is **you** and what you share of yourself and your feelings. If you are open and honest, your talk will be great and the atmosphere will be set for your group's evening of dialog and sharing.

## The Meeting

**Dialog and Sharing Question:** How have I heard God talk to me through my mind, emotion, imagination, will, memory? Choose one way and explain how it made you feel.

**Sharing Time:** Voluntary sharing of dialog and discussions of how spouses can help each other tune in to God.

**Suggested Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 55: 9-13.