



I am still reflecting on lessons learned from *Out of the Woods*, and God keeps bringing me back to one key word: listen. It is the one word that God continues to place on my heart...and one that I have learned so much about in my time at STP. I was reminded of the value of listening by one of our dear "trees" in *Out of the*

*Woods*. At the cast party, she commented that her role as a tree required her to remain frozen and the only thing she could do was listen to what was happening on stage. She realized that perhaps the reason she was cast there was because the truth being spoken was what she needed to hear.

Throughout the process of preparing for a show there may have been times when you felt bored. You may have had to watch rehearsal waiting for your turn to go on stage. You may have worked on scenes, but not really understood how they fit together or how your role fit into the bigger picture. You may have been frustrated, wondering if it would all come together.

During that time, you had to be still and wait, but did you realize that there is a lesson in that? The Bible is filled with accounts of people waiting for Him. I'm reminded of the Israelites waiting to enter the promised land and the prophets waiting for the Messiah. Since Jesus' death and resurrection, we have been waiting for His return. Waiting seems to be an important skill for those who love the Lord!

The great thing about waiting is that we have the chance to listen. Being still and quiet allows our ears to listen to what God might be trying to teach us. We really can not underestimate the value of times when we have the chance to slow down and listen to His Word. This year, you may have had to do that, because that was what was required of you in rehearsals or in your placement on stage. In rehearsals, you were given the chance to re-hear what God has to say over and over. Slowing down and listening for God's voice through scripture, or in our case, script and lyrics, is a skill that we need to practice over and over.

You saw God honor the time of quiet that you gave Him during your show, especially final two weeks. He calmed your nerves. He brought set changes together. He used you as part of your director's bigger plan for the show. You felt His presence because you drew near to Him, and you had the time to re-hear Him and realize how He was bringing the whole picture together.

God is always near and He wants a "final two weeks" relationship with you every day. Final two weeks is only different because we are uniquely focused on God, re-hearing His truth.

Being quiet, listening and watching for God, is a skill that needs daily rehearsal. He will honor your time together each day as you open His Word. Let Him calm your anxiety! Let Him lead you through transitions! Let Him use you where you are as part of His bigger plan! Re-hear and rehearse His goodness, love and mercy every day by spending time in His Word.

**KEY VERSES:** Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him. Psalm 62:5  
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8a