



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: John 10:17 – Learning to listen to Jesus

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

Would people describe you as a good listener? Why or Why not? In what way is listening so important to understanding?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

1. Why is using chapter 9 and the healing of the blind man so important for us to understand what Jesus means when he says, “my sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me”?
2. What ways do we tend to drift away from having a relationship with Jesus into rigid structures or patterns of explaining God’s presence in our lives?
3. Why is it important for us to ground ourselves in hearing from Jesus by living in relationship WITH Jesus?
4. In what ways have you found that people have abused “hearing from God”? On the opposite side, how does our fear of “hearing from God” keep us from having a “more” personal relationship with Jesus?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 10:1-21]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Who did Jesus say was a thief and a robber? (10:1)

What kind of relationship do sheep have with their shepherd? (10:2-4)

Why won’t sheep follow a stranger? (10:5)

What effect did Jesus’ words have on His audience? (10:6)

What did Jesus say He was? (10:7)

To whom did Jesus say the sheep did not listen? (10:8)

What did Jesus say would be the result of entering through Him? (10:9)

How did Jesus contrast His coming with the coming of a thief? (10:10)

Who did Jesus claim to be? (10:11)

Why did Jesus say the hired hand would abandon his sheep? (10:12-13)

What type of relationship did Jesus say He had with His sheep? (10:14)

What did Jesus say He did for His sheep? (10:15)

What did Jesus say He had? (10:16)

Why did Jesus say the Father loved Him? (10:17-18)

What effect did Jesus’ words have on the Jews who heard Him speak? (10:19-21)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what way is Jesus like a gate?

How has Jesus been a gate in your life?

In what way is Jesus like a shepherd?

How are we like sheep?

In what way is Jesus your shepherd?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

How can we better hear the voice of Jesus?

What tempts people to follow a stranger? Why?

How has Jesus made your life full?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?