

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Listening to God - Part 1

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 27, 2026



How do we become people who recognize the voice of Jesus?

John 10:1-18 (NLT) "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." ⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant,⁷ so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. ¹⁷ "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again.¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

• Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd."

• Jesus as our Good Shepherd invites us to know Him personally & intimately. v. 3

• Jesus as our Good Shepherd promises to lead & guide us. v. 3-4

Psalms 23:3b-4 (NLT) "He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me."

• Jesus as our Good Shepherd assumes we will be listening for His voice. v. 4-5

"Learning to hear God's voice is the single most important task of a disciple of Jesus." Theologian Gerry Breshears

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

• Jesus as our Good Shepherd wants to give us a rich & satisfying life. v. 9-10

John 10:27-29

• Jesus as our Good Shepherd willingly sacrifices his life for us. v. 11, 17-18

Big Idea: Know His voice, Trust His heart, & Follow His lead.

Application: Practicing Listening Prayer (P.R.A.Y.)

Isaiah 30:18 (NLT) "So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help."

• **Pause** – Quiet your heart & mind. Take some deep breaths.

• **Rejoice** – Become aware of God's presence. "Thank you, Jesus, for being with me!"

• **Ask** – Ask God to speak to you and then wait. "Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit – what would you like to say to me today?"

• **Yield** – Respond to what you sense from God. Have a conversation with the Lord. Then listen and obey by yielding to what God says.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the New Living Translation (NLT).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
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To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Listening to God - Part 1
#3 of 9 - October 11, 2026

- 1) What did you find interesting or helpful about this message on "Listening to God"?
- 2) Read John 10:1-18. What strikes you about what Jesus says in this passage? How does the image of the Good Shepherd encourage you?
- 3) What does Jesus say about listening and following that we need to hear today if we want to be His disciples?

4) Watch Session 3 - Listening to God (Practicing The Way - Prayer Course)

<https://launch.practictheway.org/resources/prayer>

- 5) Have you ever tried to listen for God's voice before? If not, why not?
- 6) What fears or hopes does this type of prayer bring up in your heart?
- 7) What's the primary way that you hear God's voice in your life? What stuck out to you from that teaching?

Practice Listening Prayer (P.R.A.Y.)

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