

5-Day Devotional: Hearing the Shepherd's Voice

Day 1: Known by Name

Reading: John 10:1-10

Devotional: Before you ever sought God, God sought you. The shepherd knows each sheep by name—not because they earned it, but because belonging comes first. In a world that constantly demands we prove our worth, this truth is revolutionary: you are already known. The voice calling you isn't asking for credentials or perfection. It's simply calling your name. Today, pause amid the noise and listen. What would change if you truly believed you belonged before you performed? The Christian life doesn't begin with your effort to find God, but with recognizing the voice that has been calling you all along. You are named. You are known. You are His.

Day 2: The Economy of Abundance

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Devotional: Two economies compete for our allegiance: the thief's economy of scarcity and the shepherd's economy of abundance. The early church didn't share possessions because of guilt or obligation, but because awe transformed them. When we truly hear God's voice declaring "there is enough," our clenched fists slowly open. Scarcity whispers that we must hoard to survive; abundance declares we can trust and share. What are you clutching today out of fear? The grip loosens not through willpower, but through encountering the One who provides overflow—*perisson*—more than enough, spilling over the edges. Generosity isn't manufactured; it's the natural consequence of being deeply known and loved by the Shepherd.

Day 3: Awe That Transforms

Reading: Psalm 46:1-11

Devotional: "Be still, and know that I am God." Awe comes when we stop trying to manufacture spiritual experiences and simply encounter reality breaking through. The early church astonished their neighbors not through impressive

programs but through lives that whispered of another world. When people live inside the shepherd's economy—sharing, caring, opening their hands—the watching world pauses. That pause is sacred. It's the crack in the universe where scarcity's lie gets exposed. What would it look like for your life to create that kind of pause in someone else's day? Awe isn't something we produce; it's what happens when God's presence becomes visible through ordinary people living extraordinary trust.

Day 4: Loosening Our Grip

Reading: Luke 12:22-34

Devotional: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus asks a haunting question: What are we holding too tightly? Not to shame us, but to free us. Every generation of believers must ask what the voice is calling them to release. Perhaps it's control, reputation, comfort, or certainty. The shepherd's voice doesn't shout demands; it gently invites us further into trust. Letting go isn't about becoming careless; it's about becoming care-free in the truest sense—freed from the anxious care that says we must secure ourselves. What would your hands look like if they were open? What might you receive that you cannot grasp? Listen today for what the voice is asking you to release.

Day 5: Living in the Listening

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Devotional: A congregation—a life—willing to be haunted by the question "What is the voice calling me to?" is a life still alive. Transformation happens not through striving but through sustained listening. Paul calls it "renewing of the mind," but it's really about tuning our ears to a different frequency. The voice speaks in the language of "ours" instead of "mine," in the grammar of "enough" instead of "not enough." When we really hear it, our tables expand, our grievances lighten, our sense of "us" grows. This week, carry one question into your ordinary days: Am I listening? Not for what you should do, but for whose you are. Let that voice find you in the grocery store, the traffic jam, the difficult conversation. You are His sheep. He knows your name.