

:: summary

None of us can predict the future for life on earth – not in the long run and not even tomorrow. Only God knows, and only God sovereignly rules over everything. Always, and certainly in times of hardship and trouble, the Bible affirms that we are to keep listening and keep looking for God. Keeping spiritually grounded and alert helps us to live through every circumstance in confidence and strength and directs how we are to act in the middle of difficult, jarring seasons. Through everything, we stand on this truth:

In this life and in the life to come, we belong to God.

:: explore and discuss

Most, if not all of us, did not expect the events that unfolded so rapidly last week. As people of faith, sharing at a soul level helps us to process life through the lens of our beliefs and worldview. What was your experience of the week, especially at a soul level? How was gratitude a part of your week? (Note: it would be easy to spend the entire time on this – press on to the faith questions below)

Read John 10:14-15

“Knowing” in the Bible is much more than cognitive understanding. Start with v. 15 – In what ways (specific examples) do the Father and the Son “know” each other? What does these imply for the way we are to “know” Jesus (v. 14)?

Read John 10:27-30

Identify and discuss each truth affirmation Jesus makes and note its personal implication for your lives (what this means for me). *Hint: there are 10 life strengthening statements in these verses.*

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-19

How would you describe the character and faith of King Jehoshaphat – use an example of his actions. Identify one aspect of the story that inspires you or increases your faith. How does it help you live in these days?

:: make it personal

Share with your group the ways you listen to God’s voice and the ways God speaks to you (include ways this may be a struggle for you).

It is our privilege and calling to be witnesses to God’s goodness in troubled times. Pastor Mike encouraged you to listen for God’s voice throughout the week in answer to this question: *“In these days Lord Jesus, how do you want me to graciously point people to you?”* You were also encouraged to prayer walk your neighborhood praying blessing for every home.

How does it feel to you to be asked to make a spiritual difference in other’s lives in this time?

:: pray

How do you want to live more faithfully this week? Ask your group to pray for your desire.

Imagine needs (physical and spiritual) that others might have in this time and pray for them.

This week, keep seeking God:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

