

Leader's Guide

The Good Shepherd: My Sheep Listen

John 10:19-30

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The world is filled with constant noise and competing voices. It can be difficult to recognize the one voice that truly matters. Scripture reminds us that the Good Shepherd still speaks and His sheep know His voice. Yet busyness, distraction, and the pace of everyday life can make it hard to slow down and listen. Discover how growing closer to God helps us recognize His voice with clarity and respond with trust and obedience. When we learn to listen well, we also learn to follow - and in that place we find guidance, peace, and the assurance that we are held securely in the Shepherd's care.

Opening

Lighthearted question:

What is a sound you can recognize instantly (a ringtone, a family member's voice, a sports team fight song, etc.)? How do you know it so quickly?

Leader Note:

Use this to connect with the idea that familiarity helps us recognize voices quickly. The more time we spend with someone, the easier it is to recognize them.

Transition:

"Just like we recognize familiar sounds quickly, Jesus says His followers can recognize His voice."

Read John 10:19-30

Discussion Questions

1. In the Gospel of John 10:27, Jesus says, "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*" What do you think it means for believers to both listen to and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd? Why do you think Jesus connects these two actions together?

Follow-up prompts:

- What does "listening" look like in a relationship with God?

2. What are some of the competing voices or distractions in our lives that make it difficult to hear God?

Follow-up prompts:

- Busyness?
- Work demands?
- Social media or constant noise?
- Internal voices like fear, doubt, or anxiety?

Supporting Scripture:

- Psalm 46:10 — “Be still and know that I am God.”

3. Can you remember a time when you sensed God prompting you (through Scripture, prayer, a thought, or another person)? What helped you recognize it?

Follow-up prompts:

- Did you respond immediately or hesitate?
- What emotions did you feel?

Supporting Scripture:

- James 1:22 — “Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.”

4. What are practical ways we can become more familiar with God’s voice?

Possible answers to guide discussion:

- Spending time in Scripture
- Prayer and silence
- Removing distractions
- Wise counsel from other believers
- Testing thoughts against God’s character

Supporting Scripture:

- Hebrews 5:14 — maturity comes through practice and discernment

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 — Scripture equips us

Leader Insight:

Recognizing God’s voice is usually cultivated through relationship over time.

5. What is *one practical step* you can take this week to create space to listen to God more intentionally?

Examples participants might choose:

- 10 minutes of quiet prayer daily
- Reading a short section of Scripture slowly
- Taking a walk without headphones
- Responding to a prompting to encourage or help someone

Follow-up prompt:

- How can this group support or pray for you this week?

Supporting Scripture:

- Proverbs 3:5–6 — trusting and acknowledging God’s guidance
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Closing Practice

Invite the group to sit quietly for 30–60 seconds of silence and ask God:

“Lord, is there something you want me to hear or respond to today?”

Then close in prayer.

Additional Leader Encouragement

Remind the group:

- Hearing God’s voice is usually relational, not dramatic.

- Growth happens through practice and attentiveness.
- Jesus promises that His sheep are known, loved, and secure.
- Listening to Jesus always leads toward life, truth, and love.