



## Connect Discussion Guide 4.11.21 Message | Chuck Sackett

*God's voice is the voice of a shepherd—but it usually sounds like that of a friend.*

### Key Scriptures:

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

- Psalm 23:1

*And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

- Jeremiah 3:15

*I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.*

- Ezekiel 34:15

*And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."*

- Mark 9:7

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

- John 10:11

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

- John 10:27

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.*

- Hebrews 1:1-2

*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly.*

- 1 Peter 5:1-2

*Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

- Proverbs 19:20

### Conversation Starter:

- Last week, Tyler pointed out that there is no one who is more influential in your life than you are, because nobody talks to you more than you do. Have you taken intentional steps to align your inner voice with the Lord's in the past week? If you have, what has that process looked like, and if you haven't, what is one step you can take this week to do so?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Talk about what you know of Shepherds based on places they appear in scripture. Who are the shepherds in your life? Do you play the role of a shepherd in someone else's life?
2. In John 10, Jesus tells us he is the good shepherd. Look through John 10 and share a few ways He exemplifies this. How does the truth that Jesus is our good shepherd affect you? Do you let your own feelings bleed into your perception of Jesus' intentions and plan for your life?
3. It is a blessing to receive advice rooted in scripture (Proverbs 3:15), however in reality it can sting in the moment. How do you receive advice? How can you intentionally open your heart to be receptive to advice from shepherds in your life?
4. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). Learning to discern the Voice of God is a process; are you confident in your discernment of God's voice? Recall seasons where you heard God's voice especially clearly, and talk about the ways in which you were abiding in Him during that time.
5. We are faced with thousands of voices throughout our days, so it is time to decide what voice we will listen to. What is one distracting voice you turn your ear away from this week in order to hear the voice of God more clearly?

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, thank you for being our faithful and trustworthy Shepherd. As Jesus said that we would know his voice, Father we pray that through your Spirit, we might be able to hear Jesus' voice loud and clear. Thank you for the way you speak through trusted fellow believers. We confess that it is often far too easy to dismiss those who you send to speak into our lives while praying that you would speak directly to us. We acknowledge that you so often choose to speak through trusted shepherds and friends. Grant us the humility to lean in and listen when they speak into our lives on your behalf. May we also be mindful of what you might have us say to those who are trusting in us to help them discern your heart and will for their lives. Amen.*