

Week 3: May 12, 4th Sunday of Easter, Listen to Me
John 10:22-30

Time Description of Activity

Historically, Lent was used as a season of preparation and discipleship for interested Christians, and they would be baptized at the Easter vigil service. The season after Easter, then, was focused on teaching Christian doctrine. Our “Living” and “Loving” series come out of this historical understanding of the Easter season. They both follow the gospel texts in John, where Jesus is trying to teach the disciples how to live as his followers. You can ask the same questions in your worship: “What does it mean to live as a follower of Christ? What does it mean to believe in Jesus?” Today we are going to talk specifically about hearing the voice of Jesus.

10 min **1. Ice Breaker:**

Get this lesson started with a hilarious icebreaker from the YouthWorker Collective called Whisper Challenge. Available at youthworkercollective.com/whisper-challenge

5 min **2. Read Scripture**

Have the students take turns reading John 10:22-30 out loud.

15 min **3. Discussion**

Spend some time discussing one or all of the following questions:

- In this scripture, Jesus says that His sheep will run away from a stranger’s voice because they will not recognize it. What do you think this means?
- Is it easy for you to recognize Jesus’ voice? Why or why not?
- What can you do to get better at recognizing His voice?
- What do you think Jesus means when He refers to himself as the “Good Shepherd”?
- How has He acted as the “Good Shepherd” in your life?

20 Min **4. Activity and Discussion**

Say something like:

“Hearing God’s voice in world full of constant noise and constant motion can be challenging, but there are a few things we can do to make it easier for us to recognize and listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd. First, we should get in relationship with Him. We need to make sure we are intentionally making space in our lives to spend meaningful and purposeful time getting to know our Savior. Second, we need to ask Him to speak to us. We need to let Him know that we are ready to hear His voice. We also need to make sure we structure our lives in a way that will allow us to stay close to Him. The closer we are to Jesus the easier it is to hear His voice, which definitely makes it easier to listen to Him.

Discuss:

Considering the suggestions we just discussed, what changes could you make in your own life to make it easier to hear and listen to Jesus?

Reflection Time:

Be Still: Say something like, “We are going to take some time right now to practice listening to God and hearing His voice. Psalm 46:10 says, ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ Our minds can be so busy and noisy that we can’t hear God’s gentle whisper. It’s impossible to empty our minds of all thoughts and we should not try to make our minds blank. What we need to do is focus on Jesus. Express your love for Him – more with feelings and desire and less with actual words. It’s like sitting quietly with your best friend. Just being together is enough.

“So, find a place alone somewhere and just sit and be still with God. Listen for His voice and try to clear your mind of any other distractions. If your mind starts to wonder, bring it back to focusing on Him. Come back in 10 minutes and we will discuss how it went.”

Discuss:

- Was this easy or difficult for you?
- If it was difficult, what do you think made it difficult?
- Do you think this practice would be helpful in helping you hear God’s voice? How so?
- What do you think would happen if you chose to spend 10 minutes a day being still and listening for God’s voice?

Close in the manner that is typical for you. Consider taking joys/concerns from the students, then asking for a volunteer to close in prayer.

50 min

NEEDED RESOURCES:

Earphones and a phone or other device to connect to and play music.