



Growth Group Questions
September 14, 2025
“Learning to Listen”

CONTEXT

In John 10 Jesus draws on the imagery of shepherd and sheep to describe the depth of his relationship with his followers. The shepherd’s voice is recognized by the sheep, who respond with trust and obedience. The shepherd knows the sheep by name, and they follow because of this personal connection. We see this imagery in Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34 and the role the shepherd plays by going ahead, facing dangers first, and guiding the sheep with care and concern.

Jesus’s role is relational, rooted in love and a willingness to sacrifice. He is the lamb who “takes away the sin of the world” and “lays down his life “on behalf of the sheep.”

The Festival of Dedication, or Hanukkah, reveals the tension between Israel’s hopes for a Messiah and Jesus’ own ministry. The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated God’s past provision, but Hanukkah looked ahead with a hope for future deliverance and independence. It is interesting to note that in Acts 4 and 5 we read that the early church also gathered in Solomon’s colonnade.

Jesus responds by pointing back to the works and words he had already given, which testified to his identity. The religious leaders’ unbelief was not because there was a lack of evidence, but because they did not want to be a part of Jesus’ flock. In contrast, Jesus’ sheep recognize his voice, respond in obedience, and experience a complete relationship with him. Discipleship is more than intellectual assent. It is a trust and faithful following that is rooted in knowing Jesus.

The shepherd imagery underscores the security and permanence of life in Christ. Jesus grants eternal life that cannot be taken away, offering both provision and protection. Salvation is sustained by God’s grace and calls forth endurance, gratitude, and faithfulness. Jesus and the Father are one and they will not let go of those who have chosen to trust them.

SCRIPTURE

John 2:19-21

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

John 10:22-30

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication^[a] at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^[b]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

1 Kings 19:11-13

¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

John 10:14-15

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Psalms 63:6-8

⁶ On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. ⁷ Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. ⁸ I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

QUESTIONS

1. This week’s sermon is about “listening.” What distinguishes listening from hearing?
2. What does it mean to listen to the voice of Jesus?
3. What do you think is the key to hearing God and listening to His voice?
4. Throughout the Old Testament we are told that God spoke to His people through wind, fire, and storms of all kinds. Why do you think God chose to speak with Elijah through a whisper rather than through the wind, fire and earthquake? (1 Kings 19:11-13)
5. What are the “wind, fire, and earthquakes” in our lives that distract us from God’s presence and hearing His voice?

6. How can we learn to better hear God's voice amidst the noise in our lives?
7. What Bible verse speaks to you about listening for and to the voice of God?
8. What lessons can we learn from John 10:22-30?
9. Pastor Paul said that it is not about the strength of us holding onto God, but rather God's strength holding onto us and He will not let go. What does that statement mean to you?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What can you do this week to be a more "intentional listener" to the people around you and to God?
2. What are you holding onto that you need "to let go of" and trust that God's got you?