



Growth Group Questions
July 12, 2026
“Listening for the Voice of Jesus”

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-6

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Ezekiel 34:22-24

²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

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. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life— only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have

authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

James 3:17

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Luke 15:3-7

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Paul began his sermon by saying that “listening is hard.” What kinds of things tend to get in the way of your ability to listen in your everyday life?
2. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, we read that one of the major problems that keeps us from hearing the voice of Jesus is our “itching ears.” What does that metaphor mean to you? Why are “itchy ears” a problem in hearing God’s voice?
3. What other kinds of things can prevent you from hearing the voice of Jesus?
4. What do you do when you find yourself gravitating towards teachings that simply validate your own opinions and desire rather than challenge you?
5. Pastor Paul said that one of the ways we can learn to discern the voice of Jesus is to remember that Jesus knows us and He specifically knows our names. How does this help to discern His voice?
6. Pastor Paul also said that James 3:17 should be our guide in differentiating the voice of Jesus from the other voices we may be hearing. Carefully read this verse and then paraphrase it in your own words.
7. Pastor Paul gave us a list of five things we can do to better discern the voice of Jesus. Are there other things you have found helpful as you seek to listen for the voice of Jesus?

8. In sharing the parable of the lost sheep found in Luke 15:3-7, Pastor Paul quoted Anne Lamont as saying: “Grace always bats last.” What does that mean to you and how do her quote and this parable in Luke help you in your spiritual journey?
9. How does the imagery of the shepherd and the sheep found in John 10 inform your understanding of community within the Christian faith?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Where in my life do I need to hear the voice of Jesus before I act?
2. Who helps me discern the voice of Jesus?