

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." John 10:2-5 (NIV)

Listener

Are you a listener? What do you mean by that? **Will you slow down so that you can hear me speaking to you? Will you stop and listen to hear all that I want to say to you? Are you growing in your ability to hear my voice?** I have not been a good listener. **Why is that?** I have been on the go. I have been busy. I have allowed myself to become distracted by many things. I have let my life be filled with noise. **That is not good.** I know. I want to be a good listener. I want to stop to listen to all that you want to say to me. **Desire is a good place to start. It is important that you want to hear from me.**

How can I make myself available to you? How can I become a good listener? How can I grow in my ability to hear your voice? **Those are very good questions. Your questions are the start of a good foundation.** How so? **To hear from me you must believe that I will speak to you. To become a good listener, you must be willing to humbly admit that you have not been a good listener. To become a good listener, you must be willing to grow in your ability to hear my voice. Your wanting to know how to begin means that you are willing start right now, does it not?** Yes, I want to start listening to you right now. I do believe that you will speak to me. I do believe that you will help me to grow in my ability to hear your voice. I humbly admit that I will need your help for me to become a good listener. **Is that your prayer?** Yes, that is my prayer. I desperately want and need your help. **That is very good. It will be my pleasure and joy to help you to hear me speaking to you.**

When do you think I will speak to you? Where do you think I will speak to you? I think you will speak to me at any time in any place. **That is true. But, what will you need to do so you can hear me speaking to you?** I will need to stop to listen to you. I will need to quiet myself before you. I will need to set aside a specific time and special place when and where I will listen to you. **Why is that?** Right now, I am hard of hearing. Later, I may be able to hear you over the noise of the world and in the busyness of life. But to start, I will need a special time and place devoted to meeting with you, so I can hear your voice. **That is true. When do you want to begin?** Right here, right now. **That is very good.** Speak to me Lord, I am listening.

Lord, thank you that you know me by name. You are my good shepherd. You love and care for me. I will listen attentively for your voice as you lead and guide me through life. I want to follow you to where you lead me to do all that you ask of me. I will trust in you. Amen

Identity*Listen To His Voice*

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

NIV

John 10:2-5

Identity*Hear His Voice*

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

ESV

John 10:2-5

Identity*Recognize His Voice*

But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

NLT

John 10:2-5

Identity*Hear His Voice*

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

NKJV

John 10:2-5

Identity*Hear His Voice*

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

NRSV

John 10:2-5

Identity*Recognize His Voice*

The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it."

MSG

John 10:2-5

Identity*Listen To His Voice*

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The watchman opens the door for this man, and the sheep listen to his voice and heed it; and he calls his own sheep by name and brings (leads) them out. When he has brought his own sheep outside, he walks on before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never [on any account] follow a stranger, but will run away from him because they do not know the voice of strangers or recognize their call.

AMP

John 10:2-5

Identity*Hear His Voice*

For a shepherd comes through the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice and come to him; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. He walks ahead of them; and they follow him, for they recognize his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run from him, for they don't recognize his voice."

TLB

John 10:2-5

Identity*Hear His Voice*

"But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

NASB

John 10:2-5

Identity*Listen To His Voice*

The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The one who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he brings all his sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger. They will run away from him because they don't know his voice."

NCV

John 10:2-5

Listen To His Voice

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Identity – John 10:2-5

In Context: *Read John 10*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." John 10:2-5 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

The man | who enters | by the gate | is the shepherd | of his sheep. | The watchman | opens the gate | for him, | and the sheep | listen | to his voice. | He calls | his own sheep | by name | and | leads them out. | When he has | brought out | all his own, | he goes on | ahead of them, | and his sheep | follow him | because | they know | his voice. | But they | will never | follow a stranger; | in fact, | they will | run away | from him | because | they do not | recognize | a stranger's voice." John 10:2-5 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you that you know me by name. You are my good shepherd. You love and care for me. I will listen attentively for your voice as you lead and guide me through life. I want to follow you to where you lead me to do all that you ask of me. I will trust in you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has the Lord been like a loving good shepherd to you?

How has the Lord spoken to you throughout your life?

How are you making yourself attentive to listen to the voice of the good shepherd?

How has the Lord guided you down the path that he has laid out for you?

How encouraging is it that the Lord knows you by name and will guide you throughout life?

How are you making sure that you are following the good shepherd to where He wants to lead you?

Why is very important to not listen to strange voices other than that of your good shepherd?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Listen carefully to the voice of your good shepherd by going where He leads you to do what He asks of you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in our heart?)***

Have faith that you can know and follow the voice of your good shepherd leading you through life.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the good shepherd has been leading you throughout life.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you listen to the voice of your good shepherd leading you through life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will listen to your voice as you lead me through life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, where will you lead me as I listen to your voice today?
