

¹ “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ 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. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, ⁷ so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

— *John 10:1-10*

Discussion/Journal Questions

If you were directing a narrated audio version of the Bible, who would you choose to do the reading? (They could be a professional actor, singer, or someone you know.)

Have two or three people read John 10:1-10 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Reflect on John 10:3 for a moment. What does it mean that Jesus’s sheep recognize His voice?

Do you recognize the voice of Jesus in your life? What distinguishes His voice from your own or from the enemy’s voice?

In the sermon, John defined listening prayer as “taking God’s Word and turning it into a personal conversation with Him.” Why is it important that our listening prayer is grounded in God’s Word?

Someone might argue, “If our listening is grounded in God’s Word, why don’t we just read the Bible? Why is prayer necessary?” How would you respond?

The Prayer Practice this week is to practice listening prayer. Were you able to do this practice this week? If so, how did it go?