



## MESSAGE GROUPS - KNOWING THE VOICE OF GOD - JULY 22

### LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

The goal of this teaching is to clarify what the voice of God sounds like and how you can recognize it in your own life. It is very easy to fall into the trap of believing the voice of God is only harsh. Be ready to share with your group about the ways that you have recognized the voice of God in your own life, and how His voice can be convicting and loving at the same time.

### MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

There is a difference between recognizing a voice and knowing a voice. Knowing God's voice is relational not transactional. This message leans heavily into how we can not just recognize, but know the voice of God. This message uses the analogy that we are like sheep and God is our shepherd. Just like sheep we are prone to wander and it is important we know the voice of our shepherd.

### ICE BREAKER

Ice Breaker: Have you ever had an incorrect perception of who God is? What did you picture God to be like when you were a kid, and how do you think of Him differently now?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before starting to discuss this week's message, talk about this quote from Trey: *"Accessing God's voice is not like a spiritual slot machine, its, deeper. We begin to recognized the voice of God in our lives, not when we chase after the voice of God, but when we chase after Him."*

- *Question:* When do you most often seek out the voice of God?
- *Question:* What is the difference in chasing after a relationship with God versus chasing after only His voice and guidance?
- *Question:* Why is our relationship with God so often equated to a shepherd and a sheep? What does this say about God's posture towards us?
- *Question:* We are design to hear God's voice but often cant. What are somethings that may distract or prevent us from hearing from Him?



- Talk about the first trait of God's voice. *The **character** of God's voice is **love**.*
- *Question:* What are some incorrect perceptions of God's character that we can have?
- Talk about the second trait of God's voice. *The **certainty** of God's voice is **His Word**. (The Bible)*
- *Question:* How can you use the Bible to hear God speak to you?
- *Question:* How should knowing that God's hope for us is always restoration, change how we interact with Him?
- *Question:* Keeping in mind that Jesus' biggest concern is our love for Him, not our ability to perform or do better --- What does it mean for you personally to think of Him as "My Shepherd"?

## WRAP UP / CLOSE

In light of this teaching, spend some time as a group reflecting on or discussing the following questions; *(Leaders: You can either encourage your group to process these questions out loud or let them use these questions to guide further, private reflection)*

- Do you struggle to feel the love of God during the times of conviction? If so, why do you think it is hard to identify?
- How have you set up intentional time to read your Bible? If you haven't done so, ask someone in your group how they read their Bible.
- God is always inviting us back to a restored relationship with Him. Do you feel God calling you back to restoration in any areas of your life?
- **Reflect:** Take some time to pray that your relationship with God would become less transactional and more relational.