

# Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

**Week 5:** This week we listen to a parable Jesus tells to help us understand who he is and what he comes to do.

**“The Good Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has called out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow 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... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”**

John 10:3b-5, 10b-11, 14-16

*they will  
listen to my  
voice*

Choose the reflective questions that suit your family:

How much Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for those sheep! We hear how he calls them... He knows their names! Each one! He calls his sheep to come follow him, and what do the sheep do? Why do they follow? We wonder what they know... The Good Shepherd seems to love those sheep. We wonder who they could be...

Ages 3-6

We notice the sheep only listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd. We wonder what it sounds like... It must get difficult to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd if other people call their names, too. How can the sheep hear his voice? What do they do?

Ages 6-9

Jesus speaks of a time when there will be one flock of sheep, all together with the Good Shepherd. This is a vision of unity. A vision of the Kingdom complete. When will this happen? Can we help it come sooner? How?

Ages 9-12

Jesus tells this parable while standing on the steps of the Temple in the most holy city of Jerusalem. He looks out at all the people gathered there. We have to wonder who he means when he speaks of “other sheep” that do not belong to this fold. Who can he mean? Do we know them?

teenagers

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

# Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.  
We make ourselves still.  
We listen to understand.  
Amen.**

