



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 12, 2022

*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- Is there an actor or singer that you can recognize just by the sound of their voice? What makes it distinctive?
- Whose voice brings you great comfort or joy? Why?

### Context

The voice is an incredibly powerful and personal thing. We know people by the unique sound, tone, and timbre of their voice. It becomes almost equal with the people themselves. It isn't difficult for us to identify and be drawn to a familiar voice, even when we cannot actually see the person. The sound of a voice can bring us reassurance, peace, calmness, and joy - or in some cases the exact opposites. This is one reason why it is so important to audit our inputs; to guard who and what gets to speak into our heart and mind; to acknowledge and adjust (if necessary) what voices and influences we are familiar with.

In John 10, Jesus tells the truth about those who belong to Him. They will know and hear His voice and respond to it. Those who do not know His voice will not recognize it or respond to it. This is a great distinction for our day and time as well. Some can hear Jesus speaking to them, and some cannot. Some follow the Good Shepherd, some do not. Let's dive in deeper to discover more about Jesus, the Good Shepherd that leads us.

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

#### **John 10:1-18** NIV

"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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 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. 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." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 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. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 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."

## Discuss

1. How can we tune in to the voice(s) we want to hear? How do we tune out the voice(s) we don't need to hear as much? How can we hear the voice of Jesus with more consistency and clarity?
2. How is Jesus like a gate and a good shepherd?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 = regularly hearing with great clarity), rate how well you would say you are tuned into hearing from the Lord? From the Holy Spirit?
4. Do you expect to hear from the Lord each day, or assume you will not? Why?
5. What kinds of things strengthen your ability to hear the Lord? What weakens or hinders your ability to hear?
6. Among all the voices in your life, how do you tune in to the voice of Jesus? Ask him to speak to you again today and give you confidence in his voice.
7. What do you think Jesus means when He says that He comes to give life "to the full" (verse 10)?
8. Is this type of life attractive to you? Why or why not?
9. Do you think Jesus' meaning of a full life is different from our society's understanding of a full life?
10. How would you know whether you're experiencing the full life that Jesus describes?
11. What does the good shepherd do for his sheep?
12. How does Jesus continue to do this for people today?
13. How have you experienced the Good Shepherd in your life?
14. What does it tell you about Jesus that He willingly laid down His life for you? What thoughts or emotions come to your heart and mind when you consider this?
15. What is one thing that stands out to you in this chapter about the person of Jesus Christ?

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**