

7. Discuss this statement from Mother Teresa, “God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.”

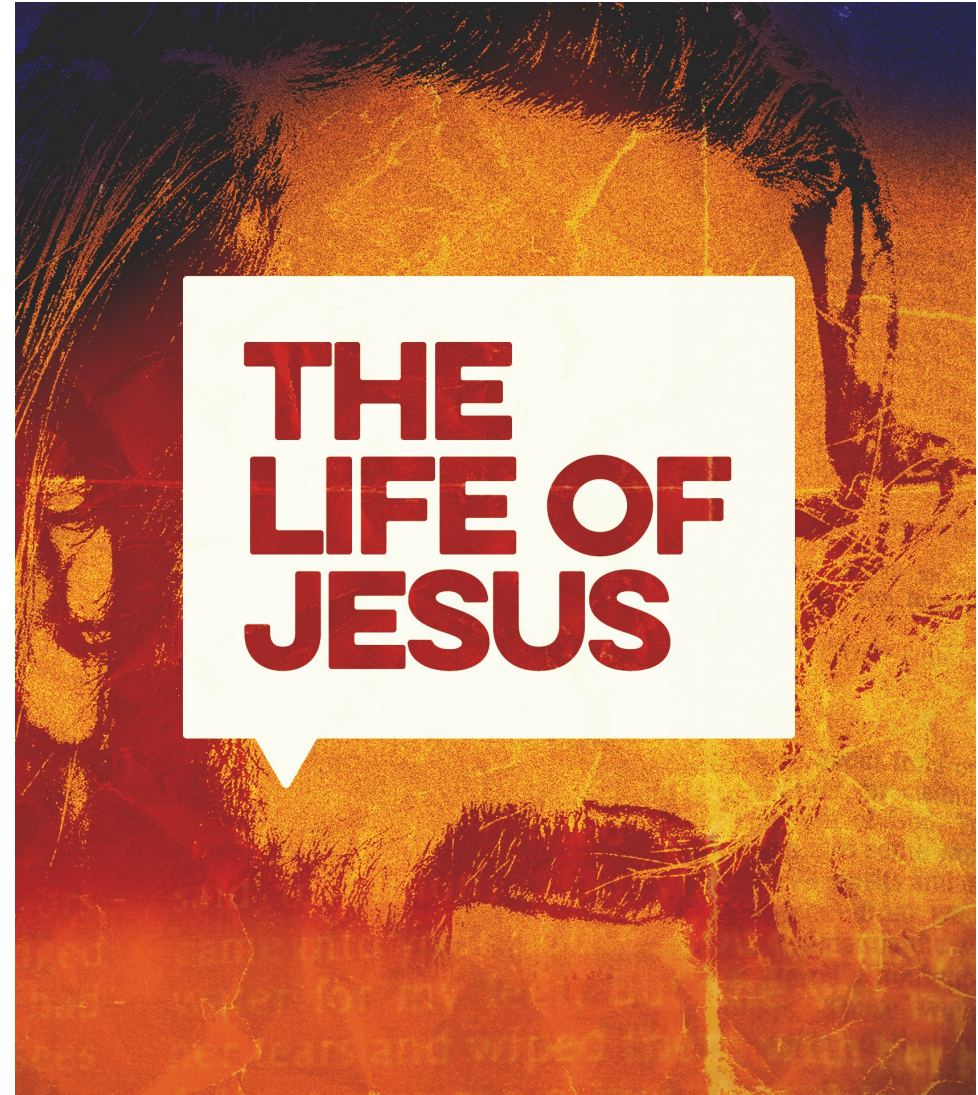
PRAYER

Gracious God, we want to hear your voice more clearly. Our schedules and the busyness of life often prevent us from filtering out all the clutter so we can discern your still, small voice. Your voice is refreshment and encouragement. Your voice is a word of correcting. Help us to hear your voice because we want you to be our Good Shepherd so we may know “life in all its fullness.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: March 18 | **SOUTH:** April 4/8 | **CHAPEL:** April 15



JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Pastor Paul Nynas



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

READ: John 10:1-16

The Bible describes many ways in which we can worship God. We can worship God with our voices of praise, our prayers, our servant's heart or reading and dwelling on his Word. John describes another way we can worship God. "I'm the Good Shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me...they will listen to my voice." (John 10:14,16) When we listen to God we are worshiping, says John!

Listening! The value of listening to another person is one of the greatest gifts you can give. I love the poster which reminds us of this truth, "Remember: God gave us only one mouth and two ears so we would listen twice as much as we talk!" When we don't listen to God, or another person, it's like saying to them they are of little or no importance. Whenever we listen to God, it's like saying: "God, you are important to me and I want to hear what you want to say to me." Often, I am in such a hurry that I don't have time to listen to God. I just run to him with my "to do" list. Usually, I remember to at least say thanks and then run off to my next task.

Rick Warren encourages us to become a better listener by asking, "God, do you have a few things to say to me?" Hearing God's whisper in our hearts is an essential part of our faith walk. Listening for God's promptings helps us discern the way in which our lives can unfold each day. The prophet Isaiah reminds us of this promise: "Don't be afraid, I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." (Isaiah 43:1 The Message) So let God know you love and worship him by listening to him. Joyce Meyer has said it's amazing what we lose in life by listening to fear, instead of listening to God. God always promises to speak to those who find the time to listen. Jesus is your Good Shepherd. Listen! Do you hear him calling your name?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why is listening to God or another person so hard for us to do?

2. What are the qualities of a good listener? How do you feel when someone has truly listened to you?
3. How often do you pause during the day to listen for God's promptings in your soul?
4. When faced with choices, do you stop and ask: "God, is there anything I need to know about this decision I'm about to make? I want to honor you by my choices. What do you want me to know?" What was the result?
5. Why is it so hard to listen to God and discern what his ways are for us?
6. Describe how God has spoken to you in your life. When has his voice been the clearest to you?