

Sunday April 25, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

Bible Study – John 10:11-18
“Listen to my Voice”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share that they heard God’s voice or a time when someone else’s voice was particularly insightful.

Context John 10:11-18: A common pattern in John’s gospel is an account of a “sign”/miracle, followed by a dialogue between Jesus and those who witness the sign, followed by an extended discourse by Jesus, drawing out the meaning of it all. This week’s reading comes near the end of a section of John’s Gospel that began with the episode of Jesus healing the man born blind. That event caused quite a controversy between Jesus and the Pharisees, even dragging the man and his parents into the fray. At the end of the day, the healed man, cast out of the synagogue by the Pharisees, worshiped Jesus; and Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their own “blindness.” Jesus continued with a discourse in which he uses a pastoral metaphor, first describing himself as the gate of the sheepfold: the sheep must enter through him to receive abundant life; others who set themselves up as “the way” are thieves who kill and destroy. He concludes the discourse with this week’s reading, Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The prophets of the Hebrew Bible had described God as the “Good Shepherd,” and denounced the members of the religious establishment as “bad shepherds” – here Jesus refers to them as “hired hands.” The concluding verses clearly point to the climax of the gospel.

Read John 10:11-18

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read John 10:11-18 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- The job of shepherds is not common or familiar to many Americans today. How does the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd illuminate who Jesus is?
- Do you struggle with the idea of needing help? Another way to ask this question is, “How comfortable are you with sharing your inadequacies (not to be confused with false humility)?”
- Do people truly need a Savior? A Savior from what?

- How is Jesus being our Good Shepherd good news?
- How do we let others know that God's voice is a voice worth hearing?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of compassion and grace, we are thankful for your guidance and protection. We confess there are times when have failed to acknowledge your protection and guidance or to be aware of how you have led us through difficulties. Help us to hear your voice and discern your direction, so that we might follow you and so that others might see God's voice in our way of being.

Amen.

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.