



FINE ARTS

deployed april week 1

discipleship dimension: prayer

DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Learn how to distinguish God's voice and how to trust and obey it.



Following the Shepherd's Voice

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scripture

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep."

John 10:14–15

discover

I grew up playing a lot of sports. In high school, I remember so clearly playing in the state basketball tournament. As I looked out in the crowd, I saw huge crowds of people all gathered to see who would win. The whistle blew for the start of the game, and the sound jumped to another level and intensified—fans cheering, our coaches guiding us on the correct plays, all while we, as teammates, were communicating with each other.

In that type of environment, it can become almost impossible to focus on any one single voice. Yet even among the noise of the crowd, I could always distinguish the sound of my dad's voice cheering me on in the bleachers. My dad taught me everything I knew about the sport, coached me while I was young, and attended every game. It never mattered how loud the environment was; I could always recognize the voice of my father.

The same thing is true with our Heavenly Father.

develop

Shepherds spend a considerable amount of time with their flocks, ensuring they are nurtured and cared for. As a result, sheep are highly familiar with the voice of their own shepherds. Discuss with your group the kind of time that is needed to create that type of relationship. How does spending time with God help us distinguish His voice? How can we become more like “sheep” to God, our Shepherd? What type of distractions do we face that tend to drown out His voice?

deploy

Discuss with your team or coach how you can spend some time each practice listening for God’s voice. How would you like to practically schedule prayer time into your time together?

prayer

Take a moment to pray as a team and thank God for being our Good Shepherd. Ask Him to help guide you as you learn to distinguish His voice among the distractions of the world.