

A Step FURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 5/11/25 "To Whom Do You Belong?"

Scripture: John 10:23-30

Opening Prayer: "God of Relationship, as we gather today to study your Word, open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of your love and the call to follow your son, Jesus Christ. May your spirit guide us in truth and unity, helping us discern your voice amidst the world's noise. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What was the significance of the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah) during which Jesus spoke?
2. Why did the Jewish leaders react so strongly to Jesus' claim of being the Messiah?

Key Themes: (To Whom Do You Belong?)

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me"?
2. How does the concept of Jesus as the Good Shepherd provide comfort and assurance to believers?

Application and Action:

1. In what ways can we discern the voice of Jesus in our daily lives?
2. How can we ensure that Jesus remains the central focus of our faith amidst various distractions?
3. What steps can you take this week to prioritize listening to Jesus' voice over other influences?
4. How can you demonstrate the love and unity of Christ in your interactions with others, especially those with differing viewpoints?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a time when you felt you heard Jesus' voice guiding you. How did it impact your decision or situation?
2. Discuss the challenges you face in keeping Jesus as the primary focus of your life. How can the group support each other in this?

Closing Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd, for knowing us, and for calling us to follow you. Help us to hear your voice clearly and to walk in your ways. May we be a reflection of your love and grace to the world around us. Keep us united in your truth and lead us in paths of righteousness. In your holy name, we pray. Amen."

Journal Prompt:

Reflect on the areas of your life where you might be elevating something above the lordship of Jesus. Write a prayer asking for guidance to realign your priorities according to his will.

