



Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice, and they follow me.” Faithful following requires careful listening, and careful listening requires intention and training. In this series we will explore ways we can grow in our capacity to hear the voice of our Lord. Our Savior still speaks, and he still connects with those who have “ears to hear.”

### Week 1: God Likes to Talk

1. Share some instances when you felt like God was speaking to you.
2. **THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF A GOD WHO SPEAKS.** Read **John 10:27; 1 Corinthians 12:2; Isaiah 30:19,21**. Rick said, “*One thing that separates God from other deities is that He has a voice, and He uses It . . . he invites all into this dynamic relationship, not just a few.*” As you grew up, what was your experience in talking to and hearing from God? Did you grow up in a religious environment where you were encouraged to hear from God?
3. **HEARING GOD’S VOICE IS NORMAL AND CRITICAL TO DISCIPLESHIP.** Read **Romans 8:14**. Rick said, “*We were created for communion with God. The Christian life is to be a dynamic relationship with a personal Savior. And if it is not, it will not thrive . . . Supernatural direction from the Spirit is normal.*” Why is hearing from God critical to discipleship? What does the number of different ways God communicated in the book of Acts suggest about what discipleship should look like today?”
4. **WE ARE SHAPED MOST BY WHO WE LISTEN TO MOST.** Read **Luke 5:16**. Rick said, “*For many of us the problem is not all the ungodly voices we listen to, but the non-godly voices that drown out the voice of God.*” What are some of the outside voices most likely to be shaping Christians today? What can we do to turn down the outside noise so we can better hear God?”
5. **FOLLOWERS OF JESUS MUST INTEND TO IMPROVE THEIR HEARING.** Read **Luke 10:39-42**. Rick said, “. . . *being eager to listen is not a place I will drift to; it is only a place I must choose to get to.*” Like Mary, how will you personally choose the “better thing” you need right now to help you get better at listening?
6. **HEARING IS THE MEANS; JESUS IS THE GOAL.** Rick emphasized that *Jesus is the prize, and intimacy with him is the reward.* So, what does intimacy with Jesus look like to you?
7. **COMMIT:** Pray together that you will be intentional about hearing his voice.

