



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 3: God Makes Surprise Announcements

1. Share a personal story of a time when you felt God spoke to you in a surprising or unexpected way. How did you discern that it was indeed God speaking to you?
2. Rick pointed out that the chief reason it is good to hear God's voice is because **God wants you to hear from Him because you are dear to Him**. How does that make you feel?
3. **BE OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY... of God sending messages from angels (Hebrews 1:14), through visions and dreams (Acts 2:17), and through prophetic words (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-3).** Which of these methods have you experienced or heard about in the lives of others? How did that experience impact your relationship with God? What did you learn about God and yourself?
4. Discuss the role of humility in receiving and sharing prophetic words. Why is it important for both the giver and receiver to approach such messages with humility? Follow up: Have you ever experienced skepticism or doubt regarding the validity of prophetic words or spiritual experiences? How did you navigate through these experiences and doubts?
5. **KNOW WITH CERTAINTY: A message from God will line up with Scripture. Read Acts 17:11.** What are some practical steps you can take to discern if a prophetic word aligns with scripture? Follow up: Have you ever encountered a situation where a prophetic word someone shared with you conflicted with Scripture? How did you handle that situation?
6. **KNOW WITH CERTAINTY: A message from God will lift up His Son. Read John 15:26.** The Spirit always leads us to say 'Jesus is Lord'? When have you received a word from God that deepened his lordship in your life?
7. **KNOW WITH CERTAINTY: A message from God will build up the body. Read Ephesians 4:29-30.** Why do you think the ability to hear God's voice is essential for the health of the church and individual followers? Follow up: As you consider the various ways God communicates with His people, what steps can you take this week to cultivate a deeper sensitivity to His voice in your own life?

