

Year A - 4th Sunday of Easter

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.



Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

"When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about. Then Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. "A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."



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Recognising God's voice



Introduction Jesus is inviting us to get to know him, to get to know him so well that we can recognise his voice when he calls out to us.

Message

- You may want to open with a game. Pick someone who has a brother or sister or a close friend in the group and then get them both to come to the front, then pick someone else, someone they don't know as well.
- Get your first person to stand facing the wall or with their eyes closed and have the other two people call out a colour, one at a time. Could they tell who said what?
- It's likely they will because they will recognise the voice of their sibling/friend.



Debrief

- You could tell when your sibling/friend called out because you knew their voice, because you know them so well already. This is what Jesus is saying in today's Gospel. The sheep know the voice of their shepherd because they know him so well already.
- Jesus is inviting us to get to know him, to get to know him so well that we can recognise his voice when he calls out to us.
- When we listen to Jesus, we don't listen with our ears. Like I'm talking to you now, you can hear me through your ears and your brain works out what I'm saying. But when Jesus speaks to us, we listen with our hearts and we know in our hearts what he is saying to us.

Discussion

- How do we recognise voices? When someone calls out to us, how do we know who it is before we see them?
- What do you think it means to listen with your heart rather than your ears?
- What are some things we can do to listen with your heart.