



## DAY 1

### BIG IDEA

Can you hear me now?

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

### THE BIBLE

John 10:27-28

### THE BREAKDOWN

Did you know the average person checks their phone eighty-five times a day? That's roughly seven times an hour. Between Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, we are constantly plugged into our phones, tablets, or laptops. In most homes the television is watched for roughly four hours a day. Most of that is live television, and does not even include binge watching our favorite series on Netflix, Hulu, or our Amazon Prime account. The average person also listens to four hours of music a day. Between our cell phones, car radios, computers, and TV's, we are streaming more music, podcasts, and audio books than ever before. So much so that Apple was willing to pay three billion dollars to own the Beats headphone company. The reality is, we are constantly connected,



constantly plugged in, constantly tuned into the wrong things.

If you go out to dinner at a restaurant it is not uncommon to see an entire family all with their heads down staring at some sort of device, all connected to media, yet no one connected to each other. Even a two-year-old can navigate a phone. There is no conversation, no growth or connectivity among them. It happens so much that even restaurants like Chick-fil-A offered guests free ice cream after their meal if they would agree to unplug and put their phones away during the meal.

There was an old Verizon commercial where the guy would walk around and ask, "Can you hear me now?" The line became famous and well known. Each time the guy moved to a new area he would ask the question, showing that their coverage was so great you could hear them from anywhere. God is asking us the same question. Can you hear me now? But how do we hear the voice of God when He is speaking to us? How do we know and recognize Him, when we are so busy plugging into everything else?

I heard a preacher once say, "We spend all our time on Facebook, but we never put our face in God's book." In John 10:27-28, Jesus uses the analogy of a sheep and a shepherd. He says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." The very first thing he says about those who are his sheep are that they hear his

voice. If you were wearing a set of headphones while listening to music and someone tried to speak to you, you would not be able to hear them because what is in your ears is closer to you and louder than the person speaking. It would be hard to make out what they were saying, and it would either be distorted or impossible to hear correctly.

Think about all the voices speaking into our lives at any given time. You have friends, parents, coaches, teachers, and the media all speaking at the same time, all vying for your attention. Which voice will you follow? Which one will you hear and listen to? Probably the one that is the loudest and that you hear the most. The one you plug into or are closest to. The same is true in our lives; if we plug into social media, to Netflix, to the culture around us and never plug into God, what voices do you think we will hear, know, and will follow?

Any good, loving shepherd would want what is best for his sheep. He would lead them to pastures where they could eat good grass so that they could grow and be strengthened. He would lead them away from any danger that they might not see or be aware of. The same is true for God as our shepherd. If we follow Him, He wants to lead our lives away from things that are dangerous and towards green pastures that could help us grow and become stronger in our character. If the sheep were always listening to other voices they would fall away from the shepherd and into danger. If we are always plugging

into other voices and staying closer to them than the voice of God, what path will we eventually follow?

What are some of the things that you plug in to most during your day? Take an honest evaluation and ask, "What voices are speaking into my life the loudest? What voices are having the largest effect on how I live my life?" Write them down. God wants to speak to us through His word, but that means we have to open it. Ask yourself, "How often am I plugging into the voice of God?" Take an account and write it down. Do you know His voice? Can you recognize it?