

# LIFE Group Leader Handout

April 8, 2018

## **God's Infrastructure--Phase One: Communications**

Pastor Mike O'Connor

### **Scripture--John 10:22-30**

*22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."*

### **Main Idea--True Believers Hear the Voice of the Good Shepherd and Follow Him God's Desire--Two way communication**

What is the most frequent command of Jesus? *"He who has ears, let him hear."*

#### **What does the voice of God sound like?**

- **Conscience**--but this is not infallible
- **Other Believers** can instruct and counsel us--but again, not infallible
- **Circumstances**--but we can interpret them wrongly
- **Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit**--see John 16:13-15 & John 14:26
- **The Word of God**--although it can be interpreted wrongly, it is God's infallible, enduring revelation of Himself and His truth

#### **Growing Deeper Ears--**

*In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Psalms 40:6 (Hebrew: "ears you have dug for me")*

- Want it
- Want it enough to lay down other things
- Want it enough to obey what God has already shown you

#### **Five Reasons We Truly Want to Hear from God:**

- He goes before us
- He wants abundance for us
- He laid down His life for us
- The Scriptures are completely reliable
- He knows us

#### **Application--**

- Which has been easier for you--Crying out to God or listening for His voice?
- How have the Scriptures proven themselves as the most reliable source of the voice of God in your life? Can you give an example?
- What is the key for you to "grow deeper ears"?

## HOW TO SPICE UP YOUR MEETINGS

From smallgroups.com

*If you're like me, meetings at this time of year can feel a little "flat". Here are some good suggestions for "spicing things up"--Cindy*

1. Meet outdoors
2. Invite an unchurched neighbor
3. Read from a different Bible translation
4. Show a pertinent video clip
5. Bring an exotic dish or dessert
6. Give out a door prize
7. Serve communion
8. Have someone share their testimony
9. Go to a nearby nursing home and visit residents
10. Head to the store and put together a missionary care package.
11. Take a few minutes and have each person write an encouraging note to someone on the pastoral staff
12. Have a potluck
13. Have each person write an encouraging note to a different group member
14. Pass out silly awards to your group members (don't tease too hard!)
15. Gather at the church and clean up (or paint or organize) a particular room (get permission first!)
16. Play a board game
17. Pray more than normal
18. Take up a collection for a worthy cause
19. Plan a service project
20. Have your group take the Spiritual Gifts test
21. Do a gift exchange (for less than \$3)
22. Have your members bring their best (clean) joke or funny story
23. Give your apprentice sole responsibility for the meeting. Agree to consult and advise, but "be in the background" for the entire meeting
24. Pass out a group survey (*I have these available--CC*) and get honest (anonymous) feedback about your group
25. Change your meeting time to Saturday a.m and have a huge breakfast together