

**Transition:**

As we move from understanding wisdom and spiritual blindness in Chapter 9, we must also take note that there are many things in this world that are battling for our attention and the ability to influence our minds. This is why it is important to be abiding in the Word of God daily. It is the fastest way to hear God speak. Do you know his voice? Jesus tells us of a good Shepherd, that knows his flock, and that the flock knows Him.

**Tell the story:**

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

**Rebuild the story:**

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can we know the Shepards voice?
2. How often are you listening for His voice? Is your prayer time one-sided? Are you reading His word and letting him speak to you there?
3. Does He know your voice?

**Fundamental:**

If we want the protection of The Shepard, then we probably need to know his voice. Verse 10 shows the importance of why we rely on the Shepard to protect us. Take courage in knowing that the Lord has all authority on heaven and earth. We must put our faith in Him to protect us for the dangers of this world. We must trust His word and His direction for our lives.

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. Spend quiet time after reading the word and just listen for his voice.
2. Take inventory of what is calling out to you in your everyday life. What are the most prominent voices vying for your attention? Do those voices honor God or are they distracting you and possibly trying to lead you away from the flock.

**Discipleship Tip:**

Get serious with each member of your small group and ask them about their abiding and prayer time. Encourage them and keep them accountable as much as you can. Remember the Spiritual Stages and look back to them to help give you a gauge of where your small group members are.

**Prayer:**

Lord, help us to know your voice better. May we be ready to listen at all times. Thank you for your protection and your guidance in our lives. We submit to you and recognize your kingship and respond in Worship and humility. Help us hear your words and not just be hearers but doers of your word.