

Readings

Scripture

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.

- Psalm 145:18-19 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away.

A disciple is someone who gets the life of Christ, experiences the life of Christ with others, and obeys Jesus' command to give the life away.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."

- Hebrews 1:1-3 (*English Standard Version*)

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

- John 20:30-31 (*English Standard Version*)

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

- John 10:27 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

How Does God Speak to Us?

Psalm 145:18-19

The Rooted Experience

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Because God is generous, we can call out to him in our need... (Psalm 145:18-19)

How does God speak to us in our need?

God has spoken to our need by sending his only Son, Jesus Christ...

(Hebrews 1:1-3)

God has spoken to our need by calling people to receive life in the name of his only Son, Jesus Christ... (John 20:30-31)

God speaks to our need today through his only Son, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd... (John 10:27)

- As sheep we learn to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd...
- As sheep we know and are known by the Good Shepherd...
- As sheep we learn to follow the direction of the Good Shepherd...

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- When was the last time you had a great conversation? What made it so great?
- What challenges you about prayer and hearing from God?
- How have your prayer life and prayers changed through your life or since you began your faith walk? What are some of your greatest blessings that have come through prayer?
- Have you or someone you know ever questioned the authenticity of the Bible? What did you discover?
- In what ways has God spoken to you through Jesus and His Word? Who or what has He used as instruments of His Word and will?
- What is your prayer to God regarding your prayer life?