

V.O.I.C.E.

In John 10 we are told that the sheep know the voice of the Good Shepherd. Yet his voice can be hard to distinguish from the clamour of the world, the rush of our schedules, and the anxieties of our heart. This acrostic has helped me hear the shepherd's voice. I hope it can help you as well.

Read a scripture segment of one to three chapters. As you read, use the following to help you hear the VOICE of the trinity, experiencing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

V. Verse

Identify a verse that catches your attention. It could be a promise, challenge, comfort, or correction. It could be a significant insight about God, yourself, or the world in which we live.

O. Observation

Jot down some observations. You might elaborate on the verse you have identified — why it spoke to you so strongly. You could also find another detail in the segment you have never noticed before. You may have a question you have about something in the segment. Be as simple or elaborate as you choose. A word or a paragraph or more. Take note of the specific verses that you are commenting on.

I. Instruction

Does the segment contain an instruction you are called to follow. It could be a clearly stated instruction, or an example that you should either follow or avoid. You could also sense a whisper of the Spirit — inner voice giving you a word of assurance, caution, or direction. Jot down any instruction you find in the text or sense as the Spirit speaks to you.

C. Conversation

Write down some of your conversation with the Lord. Part of this will be your questions, concerns, request related to the the most pressing issues you are facing. Another part of this is to listen to what Jesus might be saying to you. Again, you can be as brief or lengthy as you choose.

E. Expectation

Review the upcoming day ahead of you. What is on your agenda? What do you think will happen? Ask Jesus for his perspective and presence for all that will take place in the day ahead.

VOICE

Be still, and know that I am God - Psalm 46:10

