

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2022

November: Hearing God

Week 2 – Recognising God’s voice

Introduction

Little red riding hood is a European fairy tale about a young girl visiting her grandmother, and a sly wolf. An abridged version is provided here.

The girl, Riding Hood, walks through the woods to deliver food to her sickly grandmother. A wolf, whose sole intention is to eat Riding Hood, stalks her through the journey. First, the wolf asks the girl where she is going and, when she tells him, he suggests that she pick some flowers as a present for her grandmother. Riding Hood does as the wolf asks and, as she picks the flowers, the wolf goes to her grandmother’s house and gains entry by pretending to be Riding Hood. The wolf eats Riding Hood’s grandmother, disguises himself as Riding Hood’s grandmother, and then waits for the girl.

When the girl arrives, she notices that her grandmother looks and sounds very strange. But she still can’t tell that it’s not her grandmother, even after hearing ‘her’ (the wolf) speak and noting that she looks nothing like her grandmother. The story ends when the wolf jumps out of the bed and eats Riding Hood. Mission accomplished.

This story is obviously exaggerated for effect and the rather depressing ending not inevitable. But we can learn some very important lessons about recognising God’s voice from Riding Hood’s misadventure.

Pilot text

John 10:1-5 [NLT] “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

Heb 5:13-14 [NLT] 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

- Reflections on the introduction and pilot texts [Open discussion]
 - What resonates from the introduction and pilot texts?
- Why is it important to recognise God’s voice? Consider the pilot text of John 10
- How do we know when it is God speaking to us? Consider the pilot text of [Heb 5](#)