



THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

SERMON DISCUSSION NOTES FROM 8/1/21

SERMON SUMMARY

Often in Scripture, we find sheep and shepherd comparisons and analogies. People are likened to sheep, while the Lord Jesus is likened to a shepherd. The reason for this is likely because, of all the animals God created, sheep are probably the species that is in need of the greatest amount of guidance and protection. Sheep certainly need a shepherd and each of us desperately needs God, our Savior.

Key Passage: John 10:1-15

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the “Grow” section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone’s week has gone. The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or “connection” activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?

What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

God doesn't compare individuals to helpless/hapless sheep in His Word in order to put people down, but rather to teach us some very important lessons about who we are and who He is. What do you think some of those lessons are?

In what ways is Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why do you think He uses this analogy?

Jesus said that His sheep know His voice. How can we hear God’s voice? How can we know it’s His?

Who were the other voices the people of Israel may have been hearing? What are the voices we tend to hear around us? Where do those voices lead us?

Not only does Jesus call Himself the Good Shepherd, He says He is the “door of the sheep” (vs. 7-9). What do you think that means?

What are the other types of doors the people of Israel may have tried to go through? What are the doors we tend to try to go through to access “heaven?”

As part of Jesus’ explanation of this week’s parable, He says in John 10:11 and 15 that He gives (sacrifices) His life for the sheep. Cross reference this passage with Isaiah 53:5 and Romans 5:8 and talk about why it was necessary for the Good Shepherd to die for us sheep.

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you’ve learned into practice.

How well do you know the voice of the Savior? How can you become more familiar with the Savior’s voice?

This world is full of false shepherds, foreign voices, and dead-end doorways. How are we as Christ’s followers called to make known the voice of the true Savior?

Who in your life needs to hear the voice of the Savior? Who do you need to share the message of Christ with right now? How will you do that?

