

“The True Good Shepherd”

John 10:14-30

10/3/21

Discussion Guide

Have someone in the group read the passage to the group, slowly. Everyone else close your eyes and imagine you are in the crowd listening to Jesus. What sounds do you hear? What are people saying to each other? What impact are Jesus' words having on you? What questions arise? How are you feeling? What thoughts are running through your mind?

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

²¹ But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

1. Pastor Richard mentioned that Jesus mentioned three reasons he's the right shepherd for our lives. Of the three reasons which one has impacted your life the most and why? (If you can't remember the three check the sermon outline.)
2. All of us look to someone or something to "shepherd us." We look to something/one to care for us deeply and even sacrificially. Who/what is that for you?

It's okay to look to someone/thing to be our functional shepherd as long as we don't make him/her/it our ultimate caregiver. Why is that? Why do we need to look to God as our ultimate Shepherd? Why is it dangerous not to have him as our ultimate Shepherd?

“The True Good Shepherd”

John 10:14-30

10/3/21

3. Who has let you down in your life? Who should have been there for you but they weren't? Have you ever experienced rejection, abandonment, divorce, or the death of someone very close to you? How did it affect your life? Looking back, how has God redeemed it in your life or are you still waiting him to redeem it?
4. Share a time when someone did something very sacrificial for you. How did it affect your life?
5. Share your struggles with your mortality. Were you ever afraid of death, are you fearful of it now or have you been able to come to terms with your mortality?
6. Share a song that explores the subject of our mortality that you find meaningful. Play it and share why it speaks to you.
7. Have you ever thought about eternity/heaven/the afterlife? What will it be like? What will we do? Do you have any concerns about the afterlife and living endlessly?
8. Share your struggle with the tension inside all of us: the desire to be completely known and utterly loved and the fear of being transparent and having people too close to us. (We are strange creatures aren't we!) Where are you at now with your ability to be transparent and allow people to get close to you?
9. Read John 6:37, John 14:16, Hebrews 13:5 and Mathew 28:20. What difference does it make to know God will never leave us or forsake us?
10. In the past, what have you looked to for satisfaction and what level of satisfaction did it give you? Here's a dangerous question... Does Jesus really satisfy? Is he the living water we thirst for? Is he the bread of life that we need more than physical bread? Is he the light of the world that dispels the darkness in our lives? What's been your experience?
11. Read John 14:27. What peace is Jesus referring to and have you experienced it? What robs us of his peace and what restore it?