

# “The Good Shepherd”

John 10:1-15

9/19/21

## Discussion Guide

Read Psalm 23 and reflect on what the shepherd does for his sheep according to the passage.

1. Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”* John 10:1-15 How does it make you feel to know Jesus is your good shepherd? Did your view of God as your shepherd change as the result of hearing the message? What did you learn?
2. Jesus referred to us as sheep. Now that you heard why he referred to us as sheep, how do you feel about being called sheep? Do you agree with his assessment of humanity? In what ways are we like dimwitted sheep?
3. What do you think about the statement made by Jesus in John 15:5: *“Without me you can do nothing.”* What can you do without God’s help and with what do you need God’s assistance?
4. Do people want God to be their shepherd or do you think most people look to God to be their personal assistant or someone they hold on retainer for whenever they need to call on him?
5. What does it mean to live as if God is our shepherd? Pastor Richard mentioned what our response should be. We ought to: 1) Obey God comprehensively; 2) Obey God experientially; and 3. Obey God joyfully. Talk about each of these responses and what they mean. Of the three, which one do you find the most challenging?
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What promise is given and what action is required on our part? Share a time that you “acknowledged” God in a particular area of your life that you once roped off from God. What was the result of your obedience?
7. What would you do on the last day of your life? Would it be business as usual as it was for Elijah?
8. How do you “practice the presence of God” and “pray continually?” Share ways you keep God on the forefront of our mind so that you are conscious of him on a daily or moment by moment basis? Is that even possible or is this something monks and priests can do but not the average, working, Christian?

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9. What does it mean to “rest in God?” Are you able to rest in him or are there things that undermine your ability to live within the security of your salvation?
  
10. How secure is our salvation? Divide the group in two and have one group make a case for why a Christian cannot lose their salvation and have the other group make a case for why they can.
  
11. Share a time when someone made you feel special. Do you feel you are special in the eyes of God or do you struggle with self-esteem issues? If you struggle with personal worth issues, why do you struggle? What has undermined your self-worth? What would it take for you to grasp how special you are to God and others?
  
12. Any further questions, insights or comments?