

“The Good Shepherd: Part 2”

John 10:1-3, 14-15 9/26/21

Discussion Guide

Read the passage. Characterize the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep. What does it say about the kind of relationship we are to have with Jesus?

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice....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 10:1-3, 14-15

1. When Jesus died on the cross he knew by name all those he was dying for. He knew each person intimately. Each person's life was known in its completion, from birth to death. Jesus knew everything you would do in your entire life. He knew who he was dying for and he died willingly, purposefully, and joyfully. He accepted you as you are and not as the person you present yourself to be. How does that make you feel?
2. Do you relate to the struggle the college student had with his guilt over past and present sins? If Christ forgave him on the cross, why couldn't he forgive himself? What are the consequences of living in perpetual guilt and refusing to forgive ourselves knowing that in Christ we are already forgiven? Why is it wrong not to forgive ourselves?
3. 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?
4. 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.
5. React to the statement: If you did nothing to earn your salvation, why do you believe you can do something to lose your salvation?
6. Does "once saved, always saved" undermine moral and ethical behavior? (Read Romans 6:1-5)

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7. Read the passage. What does it say about how secure our salvation is?

So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! Luke 15:3-7

8. Have you ever wandered away from God? Why did you wander away? What was your life like during that time? What brought you back to God? What are you doing to protect yourself from wandering away again?
9. 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?
10. Do you have a circle of friends who know you "by name?" Who really know you and can encourage you? If so, share what the benefits are of having a circle of friends who love you as you are and who have your best interest in mind, even if it means having to have a tough conversation with you?

If you don't have a circle of intimate friends, why not? What is keeping you from getting into a small group and developing these kinds of relationship?

11. Any further questions, insights or comments?