



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Good Shepherd

Text: John 10:1-18

Theme: Follow the good and gracious Shepherd into abundant life now and forever.

Teaching Notes: Jesus introduces the metaphor of a shepherd and sheep to describe his relationship with his followers. In contrast to thieves and robbers, wolves, and hirelings, Jesus lays down his life for his sheep. This passage underscores themes of intimacy, protection, provision, and the unique role of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who offers eternal life to His followers.

Outline:

1. The shepherd's adversaries.

- a. Thieves and robbers.
- b. Wolves.
- c. Hirelings.

2. The shepherd's attributes.

- a. He is the good shepherd. (vv. 11, 14)
 - Emphasizes his strength, excellence, moral goodness, and capability to care for his sheep.
- b. He is the door. (vv. 7, 9)
 - Emphasizes that you have to go through his body both to enter the sheepfold and to attack the sheep.

3. The shepherd's actions.

- a. He knows his sheep and calls them by name. (vv. 3-5, 14)
- b. He leads and provides for his sheep. (vv. 3-4)
- c. He protects his sheep. (v. 7)
- d. He lays down his life for his sheep. (vv. 11, 15, 17-18)
- e. He pursues other sheep not of this flock. (v. 16)

4. The shepherd's assembly.

- a. We must know, hear, and follow his voice. (vv. 3-4, 14, 16)
- b. We must flee from the voice of strangers. (v. 5)



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. What's something you learned about the Good Shepherd that you didn't know?
2. Read Jeremiah 23:1-4 and Ezekiel 34:1-16. Summarize these verses. How does this Old Testament background impact the way you read John 10?
3. What are some differences between thieves/robbers and wolves? Since we're called to watch out for these adversaries, who are they today?
4. What are some key differences between a shepherd and a hireling? How would you recognize and avoid hirelings today?
5. How can Jesus be both the shepherd and the door at the same time? What is the main point Jesus is making when he calls himself the door of the fold?
6. Picture several flocks of sheep mixed together in a large, guarded courtyard. Jesus comes to the gate and calls his sheep by name, and they follow him. What elements of the shepherd's goodness are illustrated by these actions?
7. What other voices do you tend to follow in everyday life? Who do you listen to for direction and perspective? Who do you functionally trust to lead you . . . and where are they going?
8. Under what circumstances would a shepherd lay down his life for his sheep? What does this metaphor reveal about the nature of Jesus' death?
9. What are some attributes of a good sheep that you could practice in everyday life?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise Jesus for being the Good Shepherd, and mingle meditation with prayers of thanksgiving for what that means.
2. Confess where you have wandered away from the Shepherd, gotten lost, and been wounded. Confess that you've failed, at times, to listen to and follow his voice where he leads you.
3. Ask God to give you the wisdom to recognize thieves, wolves, and hirelings, and to discern the alternate voices that are trying to lead you astray.