

A Shepherd, Some Thieves, and the Sheep

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | John 10:1–18

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Ice Breaker

What is your Mount Rushmore of snacks?

Understanding the Text in Context

Read John 10:1-21 together, noting the analogies Jesus is making. Describe the ways that Jesus is different from the bad “shepherds” – the bad spiritual leaders of Israel (as in Ezekiel’s day [Ez 34:1-6], so too in Jesus’ day).

Why is there such a wide range of reactions (see John 10:19-21) to Jesus elevating himself as “the door” and contrasting himself with the “hired hand”?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Re-read verses 14-15. Why was it necessary for the Good Shepherd to lay down His life in order to save His sheep? What does that say about the heart of the Good Shepherd?

Why do you think Jesus describes us as sheep, and what does that reveal about our need for a Savior? (For a short video of a less-than-ideal characteristic of real sheep, click [here](#).)

What does it mean that Jesus knows His sheep personally, rather than simply knowing about them?

Living Out the Truth

With Jesus as our Good Shepherd, describe a time when His care for you was quite evident.

Where is it hardest for you to trust the Shepherd's care right now? What would trusting Jesus actually look like in that situation this week?

What is one area of your life where you know God is leading you, but you're struggling to actually follow Him? What is making obedience difficult?

Together, read Psalm 23. Pray for one another – for the provision and protection that only the Good Shepherd can provide.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Consider the passage: draw out aspects of God's care for his children as a parent cares for their child. Read Psalm 23 together.

Meditate on the idea that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and that he leads us when we are lost or go astray. Pray together.

Further Study

Read a few short articles:

- “Shepherded by Jesus – Praying through Psalm 23 – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)”
- [The Shepherd Who Knows His Sheep](#)
- [He Leads Me in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake](#)
- [Jesus's Sheep Hear His Voice — What's That Mean?](#)

Or for a book, read: [The Lord of Psalm 23: Jesus Our Shepherd, Companion, and Host](#)

Watch:

- Red Pen Logic video that addresses challenges to the exclusive nature of Jesus' claims: [“Ex-Christian Musician CHALLENGES How Jesus Can be the ONLY WAY to God”](#)
- Think for a Minute video: [Do All Religions Lead to God?](#)

Read your John Study Journals, looking ahead to next week's sermon and text for John 10:22-42: “Hearing Jesus: The Good Shepherd,” “The Eternal Security of Believers,” and “The Son of God is God!”