

Small Group Questions | The Good Shepherd | John 10:1-21



In John 10, Jesus likens himself to a good shepherd. This metaphor may be hard to understand in today's times. Some of us have seen sheep in a field or perhaps even pet one at a petting zoo, but we lack understanding of what a shepherd really does. Palestinian shepherds led their sheep. Most sheep were raised for wool, so shepherds had a ten to twelve year relationship with their sheep. It was common for shepherds to name their sheep, and they were extremely valuable to them. Think about the role of a shepherd as you talk about the questions below.

1. Statistics show that that average American adult will live to be 77 years old. The average age decreases for those with a drug or alcohol addiction and increases for those in blue zones. What does it look like to live a full life and not an average life?
2. **Read John 10:1-6.** Jesus teaches about the protective role of ancient shepherds. How did this message help you better understand the role of Jesus as a shepherd in your life? Can you think of one way that Jesus has shepherded you?
3. **Read John 10:14.** Jesus taught us that the shepherd knows the sheep and the sheep know the shepherd. Do you have a habit of listening to the voice of Jesus in your life? Take some time to read and discuss **1 Samuel 3:10**.
4. **Read John 10:7-10.** Jesus describes Himself as the gate for the sheep pen. There is a stark contrast between a gate and a thief. Where do we currently see Jesus protecting us and where do we see the thief trying to destroy us?
5. Jesus also describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. **Read John 10:11-13.** Jesus describes several ways that He is the Good Shepherd. Look over these ways and share how you've seen Jesus as the Good Shepherd in your own life.
6. **Read John 10:16.** We read that Jesus has a desire for all people to know Him. Coastline is a church who believes the Gospel is for everyone. **Read Genesis 12:1-3, Joel 2:32, and Matthew 28:19-20.** How can we be actively involved in growing God's Kingdom and sharing the love of Jesus?
7. **Read John 10:19-21.** The conclusion of the story is continued division over who Jesus is. The Pharisees can't seem to agree about who Jesus is. Why do you think they had such a tough time understanding Jesus?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for Jesus to show you how he is shepherding you this week.