

Small Group Questions | Good Shepherd Pt 2 | John 10:22-42



Last week Jesus taught about the Good Shepherd. This theme continues in today's passage as Jesus contrasts himself, the Good Shepherd, with the poor shepherds of Israel who have failed to care for their sheep. In response, the crowd gets fed up and demands a clear, concise answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" When Jesus' answer isn't to their liking, they attempt to kill him. Jesus once again escapes unharmed and goes outside the religious temple to the other side of the Jordan where he is welcomed by outsiders – many of which come to believe in him. Today we'll look at who Jesus really is and what it means to have hearts and minds open to hearing his voice.

1. Read **John 10:22-42**.
2. During Hanukkah, a festival meant to remember the overthrowing of foreign invaders and a rededication of the temple, Jesus gets asked, "Are you the Messiah?" Do you think he answers this question?
3. The Jews look to stone Jesus. Why is this significant? What does this say about how they are receiving His message? Do you think he matches the Messiah they were looking for?
4. The crowd's disappointment in Jesus causes them to reject Jesus. Have you ever believed God was going to act or move in a certain way, and then he didn't? Or have you been disappointed when God said no to a prayer? What did you do when that happened?
5. Jesus has already performed a number of miracles at this point in the book of John. Take a few minutes to go over the previous chapters and list them as a group. Our actions are often a reflection of not only who we are but what we care about. What or who do you think Jesus cares about based on these miracles?
6. Individually reflect on the powerful works that God has done within your own life. Take a few minutes and encourage one another with your stories of God's goodness.
7. The life of Jesus was a place where heaven and earth overlapped. Now, as His image-bearers we are called to bring heaven down to earth by reflecting Him in the world. Where is the reflection of Jesus bringing light in your life? Or to put it another way, if people looked at your actions (how you live) would the actions match the heart of the Good Shepherd?
8. There is a difference between how the message of Jesus is received in the temple and how it is received across the Jordan River. Why is there a difference? How does this inform your thinking about reaching others with the Good News?
9. Close in a time of prayer. Pray for an openness to follow the Good Shepherd and reflect his love, compassion, and priorities in your life.