

the gospel of

JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

PART 11: THE ONE WHO IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Read the text: John 10:1-18

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and

destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

In chapter 9, Jesus has been asking, “Do you see?” Now, in chapter 10, He starts to ask, “Do you hear my voice?” Drawing on Psalm 23, and on His audience’s knowledge of shepherds in their culture, Jesus reveals more about who He is and what He is offering all who trust and follow Him. He is the Good Shepherd. His sheep know His voice and follow Him because they know He will lead them to what they truly need; specifically to restoration and righteousness. Jesus also says that He protects His sheep from the very real enemy, unlike the hired servants who care only for themselves. Jesus’ powerful presence with them is the help He provides. Last, He promises abundant life, both here and for eternity. The proof that Jesus is able to do this is that He is able to lay down His life and take it back up again (vs. 18). His death and resurrection ensure that He can and will give abundant life to His sheep both now and forever.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Sheep follow their shepherd's voice because they know the shepherd will give them what they need. Yet, as "sheep", we often hear other voices that promise life and don't deliver. What voices do you most often hear that are not the Good Shepherd? What are they promising you? How do you "hear" them? Where have these false shepherds led you in the past?
2. Jesus leads His people towards "restoration and righteousness." (Ps. 23) How have you experienced Jesus' restoring work in your life? Where has Jesus "restored" you to wholeness? Where do you still need Him to do this work?
3. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, also protects His sheep through His presence with them. He is with us in the valley of the shadow of death. When have you experienced Jesus' presence with you in times that felt like a valley of death? How did that make you feel? (*Try to be specific and tangible, opening up even more about your story and how Jesus has met you.*)
4. Jesus promises abundant life to His sheep, both now and for eternity. Yet, often, we look for this "life" elsewhere. How do you tangibly do that? What lies are we believing in those moments? What Gospel truth do you need to really trust (*not just intellectually know*) in these moments?