

Culture Codes: Pastoring > Presenting

John 10:1-18

Introduction:

For the next five weeks, Pastor Kevin is taking the church through a series called "Culture Codes." The purpose of this series is to look at the attitudes and practices that we should be demonstrating to one another and in our spheres of influence. Each week we will look at a passage of Scripture, discuss the content, and then seek ways that it applies to our lives. This is merely a discussion guide that is meant to help you move the conversation forward. Life Group members are welcomed to utilize resources for taking the discussion deeper. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1636-1637. - JF

Questions:

What do you know about sheep shepherds? Why do sheep need a shepherd? What do you like or dislike about their roles? How are shepherds related to the Christian faith? Why are church leaders compared to shepherds in the pages of Scripture? What image does the Bible give to followers of Jesus? In your opinion, is being called a sheep good or bad? How do you feel about being called a sheep? Is there any comfort in being a sheep of God?

Read John 10:1-18. What is the context of this passage? Who are the main people/characters expressed in this passage? How would you summarize this passage?

How well should the shepherd and sheep know one another? Why is that important? What is the shepherd's responsibility as described by Jesus? Do the sheep have any responsibility? If so, what are they? How will sheep react to someone or something that is not their shepherd? What is the connection between how sheep are supposed to act with their shepherd and how Christians are supposed to act with the Good Shepherd?

How are Christians supposed to know the voice of God? Give examples of how you hear and obey the voice of God in your own life? What is the difference between the voice of God and the voice of the flesh, the world, and the Enemy? What happens when we disobey God's voice for the voice of another? Share a story from your own life that demonstrates when you listened to the flesh, the world, or the Enemy? What happened as a result of not following God? Now share a story of a time when you heard the voice of the Good Shepherd and obeyed Him? What was that like? How did you grow in intimacy and connection with Jesus as a result? What advice would you give to a younger Christian for learning to listen and obey the voice of Jesus? Who are you currently walking alongside of to help them listen to Jesus and help them grow in their faith? If you are not currently doing that, what is preventing you from discipling someone one-on-one? What must you do in order to remove that obstacle to small-scale discipleship?

Pastor Kevin mentioned that Jesus, in this passage, reveals that He calls, leads, feeds, gathers, and lays down His life for the sheep. What are you most thankful for from those five aforementioned categories (*calls, leads, feeds, gathers, lays down His life*)? Evaluate how you are at being shepherded by Jesus; consider using a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best). How are you at being shepherded by Christian leaders and other believers? Again, consider using a scale of 1-10. What makes it easy to be led by your leaders? What makes it difficult? What makes it easy or difficult to be shepherded by other Christians? Finally, how do you feel like you are doing at shepherding others in the faith? On a scale of 1-10, where do you land? Why do you think that is the case?

Is there anything else from Pastor Kevin's message that you would like to discuss?

Conclusion:

As a group, spend time praying over and discussing the following questions:

- How have I been discovering and enjoying Jesus as the Good Shepherd?
- Have I been a good sheep?
- How have I been discovering and enjoying opportunities to reflect Jesus as I help shepherd others?
- Have I been a good shepherd?

After praying and discussing these questions, conclude your group as normal.