

Week 6: John 10:1-21

Key Theme: Jesus is The Good Shepherd

SEE my Life: Life Map & Fasting Reflection Icebreaker (15 mins)

Share briefly how your time of fasting and reflection with your life map and Psalm 42 went. What is God reminding you of or teaching you through this experience?

Option: What is one “voice” that you followed when you were growing up? Maybe it was a parent, a teacher, a coach, a pastor, a friend, an author. Whatever the case, who was somebody you listened to? Why did you listen to them?

SEE Jesus: John 10:1-21 (30 mins)

This passage includes a “figure of speech,” or “parable,” that Jesus uses to describe himself as both the gate and “the good shepherd. Seeing that his audience does not understand, he provides his own interpretation. Keep this in mind as you process the questions. After you read the text together, I would continue to encourage you to pair up for some of these questions to get everyone engaged.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. What is the context of the passage? What happened in chapter 9 that John references in John 10:21? How does this help us understand Jesus’ audience?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says he is the “gate”?
4. What does he mean when he says he is “the good shepherd”? What is the defining quality of “the good shepherd”?
5. Jesus contrasts himself with both the “thief” and the “hired hand.” What do we learn about him through these contrasts?
6. Think back to our working definition of a disciple, as one who follows Jesus (head), is being changed by Jesus (heart), and is committed to the mission of Jesus (hands). What does it mean to “hear the voice” of Jesus? What keeps us from hearing him clearly?

SEE my Life: Hearing the Voice of the Good Shepherd (30 mins)

As you reflect on Jesus’ teaching, think about your own response to God’s voice and your own struggles with competing voices in your life. Some of the squares on your life map might help you here as you process the following questions. Consider breaking into smaller and/or same gender groupings for these questions. Don’t feel pressured to “cover” all three sets of questions. You might start with the set that you think would resonate with your group the most.

1. Describe a time when you felt like God was “speaking” to you. What did that look like? Did God speak through a person, a circumstance, a passage of scripture, an answered prayer, a direct word? How did you respond? How do you know—or do you know—it was God’s voice?
2. Describe a time when you listened to a voice that was not from God, one that led you away from God. What did that experience look like? Where was God in that experience? Do you feel like he was distant, patient, angry, loving? Do you

feel like he was pursuing you or abandoning you? What might he have been teaching you through this?

3. Jesus says in John 10:14-15, "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." How would you describe, from your own experience, what it looks like for you to be known by and to know God? Feel free to also share your struggles with this question. What would you want your relationship with God to look like?

SEE the practices of Jesus: Fasting (15 mins to explain and close in prayer)

Continue with your practice of fasting this week. Skip at least one meal and purposefully spend 30-60 minutes reading and reflecting on Psalm 23. Spend some of your time simply reflecting on Jesus as your protector, your leader, and your provider. Continue to think about squares on your life map that show his concrete expression of these traits. Consider having this time in the morning during a sunrise or taking a walk during this time for a change of perspective.

Close in prayer with a focus on your one person you have been praying for.