

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 10:1-21

DISCUSSION 1: A SHEPHERD AND SHEEP

1. When you think of the metaphors of “shepherd” and “sheep,” what comes to mind?
2. Read Psalm 23:1-3; 77:20; 95:6-9; Isaiah 40:11; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Matthew 18:12-14. What are some things these verses tell us about a shepherd that might help us understand God?
3. Where have you experienced God being a Shepherd to you?
4. What are the differences between a good and bad shepherd? How does Jesus identify himself as the good shepherd and the religious leaders as bad shepherds?

DISCUSSION 2: A DOOR AND A VOICE

1. What is Jesus communicating about himself when he says he is “the door” (10:1-3, 7-9)? What does the language of a door or gate suggest about how we follow or draw near to God?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says his sheep know his voice (10:3-5, 14-16)?
3. How can we better listen for and hear the “voice” of Jesus? What are competing noises and voices in your life that might crowd out his voice or make it harder to hear from him?

DISCUSSION 3: ABUNDANT LIFE AND A UNIFIED FLOCK

1. What are ways you’ve heard others describe the “abundant life” that might not be biblical? What are descriptions of life in Christ from John’s Gospel that might help us understand what the “abundant life” does mean?
2. Throughout John’s Gospel, he reminds us Christ’s Church is now “one flock,” and despite our apparent differences, we should pursue unity with other believers because we’re one in Christ (10:16; 11:52; 17:21-23). What are potential sources of disunity and division within the world and Church today?
3. What are a few practical ways you—individually and as a group—can pursue peace, oneness, and unity with other Christians who are different from you or might disagree with you in some areas, but who are the people you’re called to be one with?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does a shepherd do for his sheep?
2. What are ways Jesus relates to us or things he does for us as our Shepherd?
3. As his sheep, how can we better follow, listen to, and obey Jesus the Great Shepherd?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **I Am Statements:** John 6:35-59; 8:12-30; 10:1-18; 11:17-27; 14:6; 15:1-6.
- **The Shepherd:** Psalm 23; 28:9; 77:20; 80:1; 95:7; 100:3; Isaiah 40:10-11; Jeremiah 23; Ezekiel 34; Micah 7:14; Matthew 18:12-14.
- **The Sheep:** Psalm 95:7; 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Hosea 4:16; Luke 15:3-7.