



## **Week 16 Discussion Questions**

**Text:** John 10:1-42

**Icebreaker:** Reflect and share one way you experienced Jesus work in your life this past year.

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?

The imagery of sheep and their shepherd is found all over Scripture, from the first caretakers in the garden, Adam, Eve, and their son Abel, to Joseph, Abraham, and Moses. From David the shepherd boy and his psalms like Psalm 23 to imagery in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and eventually Jesus who uses the imagery of Himself.

### **Read Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34:1-16**

2. What are the characteristics of a bad shepherd in these passages?

Selfishness, using the sheep for their own will, gain, and purposes. Protecting themselves before the sheep. Feeding themselves instead of the sheep. Ignoring the health of the sheep and failing to meet the needs of the sheep. Failed to keep watch, resulting in losing sheep in the wild, surrendering them to the dangers around them.

3. What are the characteristics of the sheep in these passages?

Sick. Lost. Hungry. Alone. Used. Weak.

4. What are the characteristics of a good shepherd?

Seeks out the sheep. Rescues them from danger. Brings them to a safe place and protects them from danger. Provides abundant food and grazing land, a safe and beautiful place to live. Binds up the injured.

5. What difference is there in the life of the sheep when they have a good shepherd compared to a bad shepherd?

Night and day, 180 degree, complete opposite experience. Sheep are dependent on their shepherd, and their quality of life fully depends on the relationship between the sheep and the shepherd.

6. What does it mean for Jesus to be our good shepherd?

Jesus lays down His life for us and then takes it back up again in the resurrection. He is the author of life and conqueror of death. He has proved to be the protector we need, stopping at nothing, not even death, to keep us safe and give us abundant life. To follow Jesus as our Shepherd means we entrust our lives to Him and follow where He leads, allowing his Rod and Staff to guide us.

7. The Jews in the story struggle to believe Jesus is the Messiah, despite all the signs pointing to that reality. What parts of Jesus story are most difficult for you to believe?

8. What would solidify your belief in Jesus if it were true?

9. In this passage, sheep follow the voice of the Shepherd. Belief is active. In this case, what does it look like to listen to the voice of Jesus?

As a parent knows the voice of their child amidst a crowd, recognizing and listening to Jesus voice requires intimacy with Christ. We gain intimacy and relationship with someone by intentionally interacting with and seeking to know them deeply.

Intimacy and relationship with Christ begins with reading His Word (the Bible) and making space for the Holy Spirit to speak. For God to speak, we need to practice silence, meditation, and prayer.

10. As we begin this year, what is one way you can make space for silence and stillness to listen to the Good Shepherd's voice?

- Commit to a Bible in a Year plan?—accountability within your life group.
- Set your alarm 10 min early every day to dedicate the first ten minutes of your day to prayer.
- Memorize a weekly/monthly verse (maybe from John?).
- Join a Calvary Bible study.
- Set aside one day a week to practice Sabbath rest.