LIFE FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JOHN 10:1-21

SERMON NOTES - John 10:1-21

	The Good Shepherd is the
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1	When you think of a shepherd, what comes to mind? What comes to mind when you think of a sheep? What strikes you as being most significant about the shepherd's relationship to the sheep? (John 10:2-5)
2	Throughout Scripture, God describes Himself as the Shepherd of His people. Choose three or four of the verses that follow and meditate on what they say about God as a Shepherd: Genesis 49:23-24, Psalm 23, Psalm 78:52-53, Isaiah 40:9-11, Matthew 9:36, Hebrews 13:20-21.
	♥ a. How do these verses speak to the burdens you are facing right now?
3	Not only was God the Shepherd of his people Israel, but he also gave the care of his people over to kings, prophets, priests. They, too, were to act as shepherds over God's flock and care for them. According to Ezekiel 34:1-10, how can you identify a bad shepherd? What are some characteristics of bad shepherds in our day?
	a. What implications do these verses have for all who offer spiritual care for God's people? (Think of your pastors, the deacons, community group leaders, ministry leaders, elder candidates, interns, children's teachers, disciple-makers, etc)
	b. What promise does God give for those who have been under bad shepherds? What stands out to you about this prophecy? (Ez. 34:11-16)
	c. What encourages you about God's fulfillment of this promise? See also 2 Sam. 7:12–16, Ezekiel 34:23-24?
4	The Good Shepherd came that His sheep might have life and have it abundantly. But, we often fail to experience the benefits of what Jesus came to give us. Why do you think that is? Take time to define as a group what having life abundantly should look like.

5	Contrast two thingsboth the strength of temptation to worldliness and the emptiness of soul that it brings. Read Isaiah 55:1-7. How does God's free offer of life help us resist sin? How does knowing the joy God promises help us choose Him over the world?
6	In the Good Shepherd, you are both fully known and fully loved. In what ways can it be fearful to be fully known?
	♥ How does being fully known and fully loved give you security? Hope?
0	The Pharisees, religious leaders and Jewish people considered themselves part of God's flock, because they were descendents of Abraham and God's chosen people. Look at John 14:6, Ephesians 3:8-12, Matthew 28:19, Romans 1:16 and Revelation 7:9-10. How does Jesus redefine the flock of God?
	a. How does John 17:11,20-21 deepen our understanding of Jesus' vision for his sheepfold?
	◆ b. In what ways should this aspect of Jesus' mission motivate us to share the gospel?
	 c. Take time as a group to share specific people or people groups that you are burdened to see reached. Pray Matthew 9:36-38 together that God would send your group to labor in His harvest and see fruit that remains.
8	Read Acts 4:12 and 1 Timothy 2:5. How does God's Word clash with our culture's predominant view toward salvation and eternal life?
	a. How would you respond to someone who says such a teaching is offensive because it is "narrow" and "exclusive"?
	b. If you were going to use John 10:1-21 to share the gospel with someone, what points would you draw out? Think of ways to describe our accountability to God, Jesus character, death and resurrection, and what eternal life is like.