

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / APRIL 14

TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

Read

Read John 10:1–18 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Jesus’ leadership in these verses, in contrast to that of the Pharisees and other false shepherds, is protective, personal, prospering, and propitiatory.”
- “Jesus’ authority is different from any toxic, abusive, self-serving authority you might have experienced.”
- “The true shepherd loves his sheep and is committed to protecting them, up to the point of dying for them.”
- “We were created to find our identity in him. We need a Shepherd to know us and name us.”
- “He promises to lead you to an abundant life, which means he also promises to guide you.”
- “Jesus’ leadership is propitiatory. It means simply that he takes our place in judgment.”

Group Discussion

1. Share a moment when you clearly felt Jesus’ guidance or protection in your life, like a shepherd caring for his flock.
2. How are the “4 P’s” of Jesus’ authority evident in Jesus’ life and teaching? Which one speaks to you most?
3. What does Jesus mean in v.10 by “have life and have it abundantly”? Where are you tempted to look for abundant life?
4. What does it look like to follow Jesus as one of his sheep, and how can we know if we are Jesus’ sheep?
5. Consider how the Pharisees and Jesus are portrayed in the Gospel of John. What are the characteristics and motivations of the good shepherd vs. the bad shepherds? How can we discern and avoid following bad religious leaders?

DIG DEEPER

Read Ezekiel 34 and consider how God describes the failures and responsibilities of the shepherds. How does this Old Testament context enhance your understanding of Jesus’ role as the Good Shepherd in John 10?

PRAYER

- Ask God to deepen our understanding and experience of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who knows us by name and leads us with love and protection. Pray that our love for Jesus and others would empower us to share the good news with those who don’t know him.
- Pray that God would grant us the wisdom to hear and know Jesus’ voice, and the courage to follow him. Ask God to protect us from bad influences that might lead us astray.