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Leader Guide

The Good Shepherd

February 13, 2022

Main Passage: John 10:1-18

Theological Theme

Only Christ was an able and adequate mediator because He was fully God and fully man. The incarnation, death, and resurrection of the Son of God was appointed by the Father from the foundation of the world.

Introduction

- ❓ When you were a child did you ever get separated from your parents in a crowded area?
- ❓ What did you do to find them? What did they do to find you?

The voice of the Good Shepherd is speaking and calling out to His children constantly through the Scriptures. Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and will follow Him. This continues to be true today. Those whom the Father is drawing to the Son hear His voice and believe. Those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb love and cherish God's Word and have attentive ears to the words of their Shepherd. They read it, savor it, obey it, and share it.

1. The Sheep Hear His Voice (John 10:1-5)

Jesus said His sheep follow Him because they know His voice. He also says they will never follow a stranger but will run away from Him because they don't know the voice of strangers. We should note the certainty of Christ's claims here. The clear implication is that those who know his voice will certainly follow it. There is no doubt about what they will do when they hear it. Similarly, He asserted that they will never follow a stranger.

2. The Shepherd is the Gate (John 10:6-10)

Jesus said, “I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture” (v. 9). In other words, Jesus claimed to be the only way to eternal life. He claimed to be the key to passing from death to life and becoming a child of God. This wasn’t the only time He made such claims. A few chapters later, He said plainly, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (14:6). Furthermore, the Apostle John began his Gospel by saying, “But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

3. The Shepherd Lays Down His Life (John 10:11-18)

Jesus’s work as the Good Shepherd on the cross gives Christians secure hope because this hope was gained through Christ’s work alone. Had we done something to attain it, then surely we could do something to lose it. And there is no doubt that if a person could lose their salvation, they would. Jesus was the hope of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And He was Paul and Timothy’s hope. The Good Shepherd is the hope of all Christians. He is the hope of the nations. The Good Shepherd secured salvation for all who look to Him through His death on the cross.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?