



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study: Chapter 10

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Each week, we suggest you hand out the next week's reading plan and questions (or show them where to find it online). This will help people be prepared to discuss the week's reading as a group.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking. Or invite your small group to note which questions they would like to discuss.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: Goodness of God

<https://youtu.be/n0FBb6hnhwTo?si=TtzdspnGK8oGW3mf>

Read Scripture / Answer Questions / Closing prayer

Week #10 Reading Plan (November 19 - December 2)

Day 1: John 10:1-10

Day 2: John 10:11-21

Day 3: John 10: 22-30

Day 4: John 10:31-39

Day 5: John 10:40-42

Day 1: John 10:1-10

John 10 was a continuation of the conversation in John 9. The blind man had been given his sight, he claimed Jesus was the Messiah and for this he would be excommunicated. Jesus had answered the Pharisees' question about blindness and the healed man might have been still standing with Jesus as He started talking about sheep.

Why do you think Jesus redirected to shepherding?

A sheep pen would have been a place of safety for the sheep. The pens did not always have an actual gate, instead the shepherd would lie down across the gate, using his own body to protect the sheep from any threat coming in the gate.

Thieves come in silently and take what is not theirs. Robbers do the same but with violence. What were the Pharisees taking that was not theirs? What were they planning on doing with violence?

Jesus is both the Shepherd and the Gate. What would this have meant to the healed man if he was listening? What do these indicate to you about who He is to you?

Abraham, Issac and Jacob were shepherds. God renamed Jacob Israel (Genesis 32: 27-28). His 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel; they were also shepherds (Genesis 47:3). Moses and David were shepherds.

The Pharisees knew their Jewish history. They claimed they were the shepherds of Israel, leading them by teaching and interpreting God's Word and the Law. They knew prophecy yet they did not interpret correctly that before them was the Son of God.

The Pharisees were using their minds to understand but their hearts were hardened to Jesus being the Messiah. When you talk with someone who is full of knowledge and yet rejects Jesus, how do you help them move beyond reasoning?

Day 2: John 10:11-21

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus stood in contrast to the religious leaders. Isaiah 40:9-11 prophesied that the Messiah would tend his sheep, caring them close to His heart. In Ezekial 34: 1-31 there is a warning for shepherds of Israel who only care for themselves.

If the Pharisees remembered Ezekial 34 at this moment, what might they have felt?

Jesus said "I lay down my life" and He had "authority to take it up again." What is He foreshadowing / prophesying?

Several flocks can sleep together and yet when a flock's shepherd calls them, they follow only their shepherd. David, a shepherd, knew that God was his shepherd (Psalm 23).

What part of Psalm 23 comforts you the most?

How do you hear God's voice? What is something you know He recently told you?

In John 10:16 Jesus said, "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." Jesus as the Good Shepherd for all, fulfilled God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 that "all the families on earth will be blessed through you."

The Bible also says, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one..." (Ephesians 2:14) "There is neither Jew nor Gentile..." (Galatians 3:28). "And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:6).

As Christians, we are Gentiles who are grafted in. Romans 11:17-21 says, "...and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others...do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you..."

Christians have not replaced Jews as God's chosen people. We are grafted in. Considering this, what should our hearts' position be with the Jews today?

Day 3: John 10:22-30

"Then came the Festival of Dedication" ...time has passed since John 10:21.

In December of 156 BC Antiochus IV Euphianes wanted to stop Judaism. He wanted all people to worship Zeus, who he proclaimed to be. He vandalized the Jewish temple and made studying the Torah or observing the Sabbath punishable by death.

Three years later, a remnant of Jews restored the temple and their freedom. They celebrated for 8 days. Miraculously, a day's worth of oil lasted all 8 days. This celebration became known as the Festival of Dedication, the Festival of Lights or Hanukkah and occurs in late November to early December.

Three is the number of completion and 8 is the number of new beginnings or resurrection. What prophecies do you notice?

God took a little bit of oil and it lasted. God also takes the little that we have and uses it. When do you remember giving what you had and God making it into enough?

Tabernacle means "God dwelt". The tabernacle and later the permanent temple were places where God dwelt with His people. The "...glory of the Lord filled the Temple" (2 Chronicles 7:1-2)

Oil and anointing were associated with the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible. Samuel anointed David and the "Spirit of the Lord came upon him" (1 Samuel 16:13). The Hebrew "Messiah" and the Greek "Christ" mean "the Anointed One." In Acts 10:38 we read, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit."

God is being celebrated at the Feast of Dedication yet the people do not recognize Jesus dwelling with His people, anointed with the Holy Spirit. They ask Him "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." He replies "I did tell you...." (John 10:24-25).

What is something you are asking God to "tell you plainly"? How will you know when He answers you?

Jesus said "the sheep listen to my voice" (John 10:27) and that "he knows them."

As our Shepherd, Jesus knows us by name.

"I know you by name" (Exodus 33:12).

"I am pleased with you and I know you by name" (Exodus 33:17).

"...I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

"I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name" (Isaiah 45:3).

Jesus knows YOU. The relationship is personal. As you listen to His voice right now, what words do you hear?

Jesus said, "no one will snatch them out of my hand." Romans 8:38-39 echoes this, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Our relationship with Jesus, our Shepherd, is permanent. He said "I give them eternal life."

How does the security of your salvation, once received, settle in your heart?

Day 4: John 10:31-39

Leviticus 24:16 stated, "anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord is to be put to death. The entire assembly must stone them." Ironically, they are blaming Jesus for being exactly who He is! They are correct and blind. They do not know the Shepherd, just as Jesus said.

God redeems over and over again. Antiochus claimed to be a man who became a god and destroyed the temple and scattered the Jews. Jesus is God who became a man who resurrects the temple (John 2:19) and gathers His sheep.

Where in your life is God redeeming something?

Day 5: John 10:40-42

John the Baptist was dead, but people remembered what he had said about Jesus. Now they were getting to know Jesus personally and many believed.

How does this encourage you to talk about Jesus?

What is our part and what is God's part as we witness to others?

