

LIFEGROUP STUDY
FOLLOW ME: KNOW HIS VOICE
March 21, 2021

PARTICIPANT NOTES

OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our LifeGroup study, Follow Me. In John 10, Jesus describes how he is the Good Shepherd and that his sheep know his voice and follow his voice. If we want to heed the call to “Follow Me” we have to learn to discern his voice from the other voices that call us and we have to determine that we want to actually do what he says. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus calls out to us. The goal of today’s study is to ask these questions – “Do I hear Jesus’ voice?” “Will I follow His call?”

ICEBREAKER I Love that Voice!

Imagine if, for your next birthday, you could reserve anyone you wanted to come sing at your party. Think of someone of whom you would say, “Wow, I love their voice!” This could be someone famous or someone who only you know their undiscovered talent! Who would you like to invite to sing Happy Birthday to you?

STUDY

1. On Sunday, Chris shared a key question of following Jesus – “Will you trust Him to guide you?” **How are you allowing God to guide you these days?**

Jesus – The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-21

The time Jesus gave his teaching we find in John 10:1-21 was during Hanukkah, a winter festival celebrating the rededication of the temple after it had been defiled. Two hundred years before Christ, Greek soldiers captured and pillaged the Jerusalem Temple, took its treasures and artifacts, and made it unusable for worship. In the winter of 165-164 BC, a Jewish army led by Judas Maccabeus reclaimed the Temple and rededicated it to the Lord. The Festival of Hanukkah (“dedication”) marked this dedication. During this festival, priests examined their commitment to service, using Ezekiel 34 as their principle text for reflection. At this Hanukkah celebration, Jesus used the shepherd theme from Ezekiel 34 to distinguish between himself as the good shepherd (John 10:1) and Israel’s current religious leaders as bad shepherds (10:10).

Read John 10:1-21

2. Read verse 1 again. **What did Jesus mean by this warning about thieves?**
3. Imagine Jesus giving a similar teaching today. **How might He reword His warning?**
4. Read verses 2-5 again. **What does the Good Shepherd do? What do His sheep do?**
5. **What helps you know Jesus' voice?**
6. **What are some ways you can discern if you are hearing Jesus' voice or another voice?**
7. Read verses 6-10 again. **How does Jesus contrast Himself with the thief?**
8. Read verses 11-16 again. **How does Jesus contrast Himself with the hired hand?**
9. Read verses 17-18 again. **What did Jesus mean that He had authority to lay His life down and take it back up again?**
10. Read verses 19-21 again. **Why do you think people reacted as they did to this teaching?**

11. How might you acknowledge your need for the Good Shepherd this week?

NOTE: Many of the insights in our Leader Notes this week come from the NLT Illustrated Study Bible notes section for John 10.

PRAYER

Creekside supports Paul A. with Wycliffe, here are some things we can be praying for from him:

We're launching a new "concentration in Bible translation" within the BA Linguistics program at Tyndale. It's a special training track that combines linguistics, Biblical languages, and cultural anthropology. We're hoping that this will attract new students, especially those with a strong missional focus. Let's pray to that end!

I've resumed work with 'BA' in South Asia. We had hoped to finish up his project last summer but the pandemic put a wrench in those plans. We're trying to finish up now . . . I think we can finish within the next few months, but BA is stretched pretty thin (he has a lot of other responsibilities with his organization and family, etc.) and he's feeling stressed, suffering from migraines, etc. Pray for his health and encouragement.