

Change

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Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In this week's message we take a closer look at Jesus' description of Himself as the Good Shepherd, and one of the characteristics that Jesus notes in our passage for today (John 10:1-18) is His willingness to give up His life for the sake of His sheep. Unlike a hired hand who will run at the first sign of danger (v. 12), Jesus intentionally offered Himself on the Cross to protect and care for us. To get the study started today, let group members tell about a time when someone intentionally stood up for them or took a fall to protect them - who was it, why did they do it, and what were the circumstances?

BIG THOUGHT

Because Jesus is the true Good Shepherd, He was willing to die in our place so that we could experience forgiveness and freedom from guilt forever.

Dig

1. When it comes to understanding Jesus' work of sacrificing Himself for us, one of the best places to turn is the book of Hebrews. Read Hebrews 10:1-2 where the author is reminding readers of the Jewish system of animal sacrifice - in what ways was the Old Testament system helpful? (v. 1) In what ways was it lacking? (v. 1-2) Does it surprise you that God's goal is not to simply make us feel guilty? Why or why not?
2. Now read v. 3-6. What other reason does the author give for why the system was troublesome and ineffective? (v. 3) And in the end, why wasn't God pleased with the sacrifices and offerings of the Old Testament? (v. 4, 5-6)

3. Now read v. 7-10. What was the attitude of Christ when He came into the world? And how did Jesus' willingness to die prove His love and care for His "sheep" (as mentioned in John 10)? (v. 10)
4. Read v. 12-14. What did Christ's single act of dying accomplish for anyone who would trust in Him ("those who are being made holy")? For how long?
5. Read v. 15-16. What is the difference between knowing with our minds what we ought to do and feeling it in our hearts? Which approach makes it easier to be obedient? Through Jesus, where does God promise to put His commands? (v. 16)
6. To finish, read v. 17-18. What does it mean to you to know that, if we follow Jesus, He will never again remember our failings and sins? And that Jesus' death for us is a once-for-all-time sacrifice (v. 18)?

Take it Further

Talk with God, and thank Him for sending Jesus to be our Good Shepherd who was willing to die (and come back to life) to keep us safe with Him - then ask Him to help us live out our lives with overflowing gratitude for all the He has done!

Daily Readings

Day 1: John 3:16

Day 2: Romans 5:10

Day 3: Matthew 20:28

Day 4: Romans 8:1

Day 5: Ephesians 5:2

Day 6: Matthew 11:28

Memory Verse: John 10:11



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