

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the message. NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Influencers act in the role of “pastors: to get people to follow them. But for Christians, our most important influencer should be Jesus. He must be in charge of our lives as our Good Shepherd. Three goals of Pastor message: help us identify good leaders; show us how we can be better leaders & see Jesus as the ideal leader. **Mark 6:34**

Four types of leaders in the time of Jesus: Unlike, Jesus, who cared for people deeply, for these leaders the needs of the people were secondary. Are there people like these in the church today?

1. **Pharisees**- conservatives whose primary concern was the law & enforcing rules.
2. **Sadducees** – Religious royalty concerned with their privileged position.
3. **Herodians/Hellenists** – progressives, willing to compromise to conform to the culture.
4. **Zealots** – Jewish nationalists primarily concerned with their freedom & independence as a nation.

Four Characteristics of a Good Shephard

1. **Vv 1-3 A good shepherd enters by the door.** How do true shepherds enter? **A.** The right way – “by the door.” What is one trait that we mistake as leadership? **A.** The ability to get people to do what they want them to do. Which is called what? **A.** Manipulation.
What does a godly leader have the ability to do? **A.** They inspire people to do what God wants them to do. What is the approach of “thieves & robbers?” **A.** They take rather than give; they serve themselves & their own interests and harm the sheep.
What are four characteristics of Jesus as a true Shepherd? **A.** He cared for other more than for Himself; He gave more than can be repaid; His love was selfless; He only did what was pleasing to God.
In v3 who is the “doorkeeper?” **A.** The under shepherd (pastors). What is the role of an under shepherd (pastors? **A.** To emulate Jesus and open the door to the flock. They are appointed by other trustworthy shepherds.
2. **Vv 3-5 A good shepherd is trusted.** How does a shepherd build trust with the sheep. **A.** They spend time with them; get down on their level & feed them. **Point:** This is the Lord’s posture toward us and He is always available to us. **Hosea 11:4**
In v3, what does “leads them out” mean? **A.** The shepherd moves the flock. **Point:** A good shepherd is taking us somewhere = challenging us. He helps the sheep to grow. As a shepherd moves the flock, what position does he take? **A.** He goes first, taking the flock down difficult paths, calculating the risk & reward, and assuring that it’s worth the move. Going down difficult paths does what for the flock?
A. Creates a greater bond with the shepherd and builds godly character, making us more like the shepherd. **Point:** There are many online “pastors” but we need local pastor “among us.” **1Cor 4:15**
3. **Vv 4-7 A good shepherd leads by example** – “He goes before them.” The shepherd is doing what and for what purpose? **A.** He is leading us somewhere to challenge and stretch us. Jesus sees eternity and knows what’s best for us. **Point:** There is a price to pay for growth so that we don’t sink into lethargy = “Christian sleep.”
Vv 10-15 What must we do to get where the Shepherd wants to take us? **A.** Follow Him. The claims of Jesus are exclusive – we must be with Him to get what He offers. **John 14:6 Encouragement:** Jesus has already taken and endured the hardest path so we don’t have to.
4. **Vv 16 A good shepherd is always looking for more sheep.** What is the main reason we are still on earth? **A.** To play a part in saving more people. **2Peter 3:9**

Start Praying & Start Doing. Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEGroups

Talk it over | week 10

discussion | study

A Good Shephard (Attributes of a good Shephard)

John 10:1-16

Pastor Sean Stone