

Dear Life Group Leaders,

There are real gems in the passage, but also verses that you're going to need to work hard at! I've tried my best in the short leaders note for question 6... sorry if it's not so helpful! Remember the heightened tensions of this passage, and that Jesus is attempting to teach his detractors in such a way that they don't kill him. I found this helpful to keep in mind as I pondered these confusing verses... as that's almost exactly their point. Take your time through it. Don't let what is unclear cloud what is clear from this passage. Particularly, don't miss lingering on the promises in v27-29.

God bless, take care and stay strong

Andy (This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Andy Tuck, who works for Everyday Wimbledon)

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **John 10:19-42**

**This week's BIG IDEA:** Jesus is the Father's Son.

**Please read John 10:19-42**

1. v19-21, how would you characterise these reactions? What are they in response to?
2. v22, what is the Feast of Dedication? Does anyone know what it celebrated?  
*[Leaders note: The eight-day Feast of Dedication celebrates the rededication of the Jew temple in December 164 BC, after its desecration by the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes IV in 167.]*
3. v23-25, how plainly does Jesus answer the question posed to him in v24? Why might Jesus not want to answer their question more simply?  
*[Leaders note: Jesus is clear that his miracles speak for him, they are signs that point to who he is. Jesus doesn't just say "Yes, I am the Messiah" because he is not the type of Messiah that they want. He is instead the one that God always intended for his people. And he will not grasp this title for himself, but rather allow it to be given to him by God the Father.]*
4. v26-30, what do we learn about Jesus' relationship with his sheep and Jesus' relationship with the Father from these verses? How do these verses comfort you?  
*[Leaders note: Jesus has some amazing promises for those who are his sheep, praise God for his faithfulness to us! He is also clear about his equality with God. Don't move on from this question too quickly, make sure to unpack each promise in turn, allowing them to building on one another. God will always hold us.]*
5. v31-33, to what extent did those opposed to Jesus understand his answer?  
*[Leaders note: to some extent it seems! Although there's still loads of confusion isn't there? They are ready to stone Jesus, not because of the miracles he performed, but because of his claims about his relationship with God the Father, which, in their eyes, are blasphemous.]*
6. v34-39, Jesus' answer in these verses is even more complex! But it was designed to get him out of the situation he is in, by using an argument that will deescalate the tension. And it worked, they didn't stone him! How does his answer achieve this?  
*[Leaders note: Jesus quotes from Psalm 82 (which you might want to read together). In this Psalm others other than God are referred to as "gods". Who they are was, and still is, much debated. However you interpret "gods" in Psalm 82, Jesus is asking them not to condemn him because he "claimed to be God" (v33), as it could be an ambiguous phrase. Instead he is encouraging them to judge him on his works and miracles, which point to who he is, God the Father's Son.]*
7. v40-42, Jesus returns to where his ministry started. This draws us back to the beginning of Jesus' ministry in John 1, and sets up John 11. Review the last 10 chapters of John's Gospel together. What highlights could we draw out of these chapters that would warrant many believing in Jesus in these verses? What have they seen or heard?