

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 4/26/26

Summary

Pastor Joel's message on Good Shepherd Sunday emphasized that God cares for His people through His people. Using the metaphor of sheep and shepherds from John 10, he illustrated how believers learn to recognize the shepherd's voice by being part of the flock. The sermon highlighted that while we have personal faith, it is not private - we cannot follow Jesus alone or learn His voice in isolation. Just as sheep learn their shepherd's call by watching other sheep respond, new believers and all Christians need the community of faith to grow in their relationship with God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Your love and care over us. As we come together to study Your Word and learn from one another, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your voice speaking through Scripture and through each other. May we grow closer to You and to one another as we discuss how You shepherd us through Your people. Guide our conversation and draw us deeper into Your truth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one way someone in your family, workplace, or community has shown care for you recently that reminded you of God's love?

Key Verses

John 10:11

John 10:14

Psalm 23:1

Acts 2:42

Ezekiel 34:11-12

Questions

1. How does the metaphor of sheep and shepherds help you understand your relationship with Jesus? What aspects of this comparison resonate most with you?
2. Pastor Joel mentioned that sheep learn their shepherd's voice by watching other sheep. Who in your life has helped you learn to recognize God's voice and follow Him more closely?
3. The sermon emphasized that 'we cannot know Jesus if we are not with His flock.' Why do you think community is so essential to our faith journey?
4. Acts 2:42 describes the early believers devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Which of these four areas do you feel strongest in, and which would you like to grow in?
5. Pastor Joel shared that sheep can accidentally wander away from the flock by just 'nibbling their way off.' What are some ways Christians today might gradually drift from their faith community without realizing it?

6. How does knowing that God searches for lost sheep (rather than expecting them to find their own way home) change your perspective on reaching out to those who have drifted from faith?
7. Our congregation committed to walking alongside the newly baptized young people. What practical ways can we fulfill this commitment to support new believers in our church family?
8. Pastor Joel mentioned that even mature Christians face dark valleys and need the flock. How can we better support each other during difficult seasons of life?

Life Application

This week, intentionally reach out to someone in your church family who might be going through a difficult time or who you haven't seen in a while. Whether through a phone call, text message, visit, or invitation to coffee, be the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them back to the safety and care of the flock.

Key Takeaways

1. God cares for His people through His people - the shepherd tends the flock through the flock
2. We cannot learn to recognize Jesus' voice or follow Him effectively in isolation from other believers
3. Community is essential to faith - we need to be devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer together

4. Both new believers and mature Christians need the support and guidance of the faith community
5. When believers drift away, it's the shepherd's responsibility to search and rescue, often working through the flock to bring them home

Ending Prayer

Good Shepherd, thank You for the gift of community and for the way You care for us through one another. Help us to be faithful members of Your flock, listening for Your voice and following where You lead. Give us hearts that are devoted to Your teaching, to fellowship with one another, to remembering Your sacrifice through communion, and to prayer. Make us instruments of Your care, reaching out to those who are lost, lonely, or struggling. May we never forget that we are all sheep in need of Your guidance and grace. Continue to shape us into the community You desire us to be, united in love and purpose. In the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, Amen.