

Small Group Guide: The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

Key Takeaways:

1. Understanding our identity as sheep in God's flock is crucial to fully appreciating Psalm 23.
2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows, calls, and cares for His sheep.
3. True believers hear and recognize the voice of the Shepherd.
4. Salvation comes through entering the sheepfold through Christ alone.
5. God's love (agape) for us is unconditional and based on His choice, not our merit.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon emphasized the importance of knowing we are God's sheep. How does this understanding impact your faith and relationship with God?
2. Reflect on John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." How do you experience hearing God's voice in your life?
3. The pastor mentioned that sheep need agape love, food (God's Word), living water, and to hear the Shepherd's voice. Which of these areas do you feel you need to grow in most? Why?
4. Discuss the difference between "herding" and "leading" sheep. How does this relate to our walk with Christ and how we influence others?
5. The sermon touched on Jesus' restoration of Peter. How does this story encourage you in your own moments of failure or doubt?
6. How does understanding God's unconditional love (agape) change the way you view your relationship with Him and others?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week meditating on Psalm 23, considering how each verse applies to you as one of God's sheep.
2. Practice "listening" for God's voice by setting aside quiet time to read Scripture and pray, asking God to speak to you.
3. Identify one area where you need to trust the Good Shepherd more fully. Share this with the group and pray for each other in these areas.
4. Look for opportunities to "shepherd" others in your sphere of influence by showing Christ-like love and care.
5. Reflect on how you can grow in your ability to love others with agape love. Choose one practical way to demonstrate this kind of love to someone this week.
6. Memorize John 10:9-10 as a reminder of Christ as the door to salvation and the abundant life He offers.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His role as the Good Shepherd in our lives. Ask for His help in truly knowing we are His sheep, hearing His voice clearly, and following Him faithfully. Pray for growth in agape love and the ability to care for others as He cares for us.