



## ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What was/is your favorite pet? How did/does this pet respond to your voice?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

## INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

As a group, read John 10:1-21.

1. Who do the sheep, shepherd, and thief represent?
  - How were the Jewish religious leaders like thieves? Strangers? Hired hands
  - How are we like sheep?
2. Discuss the role of the shepherd.
  - What does the shepherd do for his sheep? What are his responsibilities?
  - What sacrifices does he make for his sheep?
  - How does the shepherd/sheep relationship compare to our relationship with Christ?
3. What does Jesus mean by likening himself to the gate or door? (Read John 14:6)
4. In verse 10, Jesus offers abundant life. How would you describe the abundant in Jesus?
5. Read verse 14-16 again. What characterizes His flock?
  - What enables you to better hear Christ's voice? What hinders you from hearing His voice?
6. What final claim does Jesus make (vv.17-18)?
  - Why are the people still divided and angry with what Jesus said (v.19-20)?
7. Have you had a person shepherd or mentor you spiritually? If so, do you have any defining moments as a result?
8. Being referred to as Jesus' sheep is to admit that we are dependent on him. How do we try to be our own shepherd? What was the result? How can we be more dependent on Jesus to lead us?
9. Read 1 Peter 2:24-25. Are you able to rest in the comfort and protection of the Good Shepherd? Why or why not?
10. Do you feel like you are being shepherded now? Are you shepherding others? Why is it important to be actively doing both of these things?



# EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Think about a person who you would like to shepherd. Pray over him or her this week and ask for godly direction on how to approach them and start that conversation.

If you've been shepherded by someone in the past, reach out to them this week and thank them for the way they impacted you. Encourage them to continue shepherding others and pray for them.

Within your Life Group, how can you better shepherd one another and hold each other accountable?

Prayer:

- Take some time to pray over each group member's identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

"I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance." ~ John 10:10b (CSB)

## Sermon Outline / Notes:

(The following is the sermon outline. This is to be used as a refresher or to help recall the Sunday morning message.)

- The relationship between a shepherd and his sheep was personal.
- Do you recognize the voice of the Shepherd?

Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10b)

- A. The abundant life is a fulfilling life of protection, provision, and guidance.
- B. A shepherd doesn't negotiate with his sheep.
- C. You are the Good Shepherd's joy.
- D. You are better in the flock. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- E. Be a shepherd to others.
- F. Rest in the arms of the Shepherd.