



PASSAGE: John 10:1-18

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Start talking.

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Growing up, what was your picture of living out your best life? What is it now?

Start thinking.

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read: John 10:1-6:** How does the relationship between shepherd and sheep, help you understand your relationship with Jesus?
- Pastor Chris says community and proximity to the gathering of believers helps us stay close to Jesus. What has it meant for you to belong to your small group in this season of life?

Start sharing.

Choose a question to create openness.

- **Read: John 10:11-18:** What makes Jesus the "Good Shepherd"?
- Why do you think so many people struggle with putting their trust in Jesus? How can these verses help?
- Who can you share your faith with this week?

Start praying.

Be bold and pray with power.

- Take prayer requests + pray together

Start doing.

Commit to steps and live it out this week.

- **Read + Reflect:** Romans 5:6-11
- **Watch:** Daily Devotions with Pastor Chris and Cara this Wednesday @ 12 pm.
- **Do:** Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to Christmas at the Oaks on December 13, 2020.