

Small Group Discussion Guide

John 10:1–21 | Created to Follow

Opening

- Share a time when you tried something that seemed like it would be easy but turned out to be much harder than expected (like raising sheep!).
 - Why do you think the Bible so often uses sheep as a picture for people?
-

Scripture Reading

Read **John 10:1–21** together.

Optional: also read **Psalms 23:1–4** or **Isaiah 40:11** for Old Testament background.

Discussion Questions

1. Sheep and Shepherds

- From the sheep story we heard, what stood out to you about the nature of sheep?
- How are people like sheep? In what ways is that encouraging, and in what ways is it humbling?
- Why do you think it's hard for us to admit that we *need* a shepherd?

2. Recognizing the True Shepherd (vv. 1–6)

- Jesus says his sheep know his voice. What does it mean to “know the voice” of Jesus?
- Have you experienced a time when you sensed Jesus leading you clearly? What helped you recognize his leading?

3. “I Am the Gate” (vv. 7–10)

- Jesus calls himself the “gate” for the sheep. What does that say about how people enter into life with God?
- Verse 10 says Jesus came so that we “may have life, and have it to the full.” What do you think that looks like in real life?

4. “I Am the Good Shepherd” (vv. 11–18)

- What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the **good shepherd**?
- How does Jesus contrast himself with “hired hands” or false shepherds?

- How does it affect you personally to know that Jesus lays down his life willingly for his sheep?

5. Following Daily

- Sheep don't just hear their shepherd on special occasions—they hear him daily. What practices help you stay attentive to the Shepherd's voice each day?
- What gets in the way of hearing and following him?

6. Sheep Need a Flock

- Why is it important for us to follow Jesus **together** as part of a community?
- What are some ways our group (or church) can help each other hear and follow the Shepherd more faithfully?

Reflection & Application

- Who or what are you tempted to follow instead of Jesus?
- What is one concrete way you can practice listening for and following the Good Shepherd's voice this week?
- How might God be calling you to help someone else hear and follow Jesus?

Prayer

Close by praying through Psalm 23 together, or invite group members to thank Jesus for ways he has shepherded them. Pray for one another to grow in recognizing and following his voice.