

Small Group Discussion Guide

John 10:22–42 | The Messiah

Ice Breaker (5–10 minutes)

- Share one thing you're looking forward to this fall.
- Growing up, did you have a sports team, celebrity, or cultural figure you looked up to? Posters on your wall, favorite movie characters, someone you thought was the “chosen one”?
 - Why do you think we're drawn to figures who carry this kind of “savior” expectation?

(Connect to the teaching intro: DJ Lagway, Tebow/Wuerffel, Paul Atreides, Anakin—our culture loves “chosen one” stories.)

Read the Passage

Read **John 10:22–42** aloud as a group.

Ask: What stands out to you on first reading? What questions come to mind?

Discussion Questions

1. The Jews' Expectation

- The Jews ask Jesus directly: “If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly” (v. 24).
 - What kind of Messiah were they expecting, especially during the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah)?
 - Why do you think political independence and national strength were so central to their hopes?
- The teaching pointed out: *“Our desired Messiah reveals what we think we actually need rescue from.”*
 - What do you think people in our culture want rescue from today?
 - What “functional messiahs” do people (or you) sometimes look to—things we think will finally make life work?

2. Jesus' Offer

- In verses 27–30, Jesus talks about eternal life, never perishing, and being held in his hand.
 - Why might this have felt unsatisfying to people looking for immediate political or cultural rescue?
- Why do we sometimes struggle to see eternal life (John 17:3) as relevant to our present needs?
- What does Jesus actually rescue and save us from? Why is this important?

3. How This Applies to Us

- The teaching gave case studies:
 - **Empty Nesters** → **Messiah = Permanence**
 - **Ladder Climber** → **Messiah = Success**
 - **Overprotective Parent** → **Messiah = Control**
 - **College Student** → **Messiah = Belonging**
 - **Retiree** → **Messiah = Productivity**
- Which of these “functional messiahs” do you most identify with right now? If not one of these, what serves as your “functional messiah”?
- Reflect on this quote: *“We always live what we believe. We just don’t always live what we profess we believe.”*
 - In what ways does your lived belief line up with (or drift from) your professed belief in Jesus as the one true Messiah?

Living It Out

- Where is Jesus inviting you to release control of a “functional messiah” and trust him more fully this fall?
- How can our group encourage one another to cling to Jesus as the one true Messiah in the everyday pressures of life?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank Jesus for being the true Messiah who offers eternal life.
- Confess ways we’ve looked to other “saviors.”
- Ask for strength to live with a singular trust in him this fall.