

# LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



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## SUMMARY

In this sermon from the 'Church Explained' series, the pastor discusses Jesus' sacrifice for His flock, focusing on John 10 where Jesus describes Himself as both the gate for the sheep and the good shepherd. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus died not just for individuals but to create one unified flock - the church. The pastor identifies four characteristics of Jesus' flock: those who enter through Jesus, those for whom Jesus died, those who recognize His voice and follow, and those who are joined together as one flock. The message challenges listeners to match Jesus' love for His flock rather than being loyal to buildings, programs, denominations, or leadership positions that might obstruct Jesus' love for His people.

## INTRO PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we thank You for sending Your Son to be our Good Shepherd. Open our hearts and minds to understand what it means to be part of Your flock. Help us to hear Your voice clearly and to follow where You lead. May our discussion today draw us closer to You and to one another as the unified flock You died to create. Guide our conversation and reveal to each of us what You want us to learn. In Jesus' name, amen.

## ICE BREAKER

If you could choose any animal to have as a pet with no concerns about space, cost, or danger, what would you choose and why?

## KEY VERSES

- John 10:11
- John 10:14-15
- John 10:16
- John 10:27-28

## QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to you personally to be part of Jesus' flock? How has this understanding changed over time?
- John Mark mentioned four characteristics of Jesus' flock. Which one resonates most with you and why?
  - *Anyone who enters through Jesus becomes part of His flock*
  - *Jesus died for His flock*
  - *The flock recognizes Jesus' voice and follows*
  - *There is one flock*
- Jesus says His sheep recognize His voice. In what ways have you experienced hearing Jesus' voice in your life?
- The sermon distinguishes between loyalty to Jesus and loyalty to 'churchy things.' Have you ever confused these two? What was the result?
- How might our understanding of church change if we focus more on being one flock under one shepherd rather than on programs, buildings, or traditions?
- What practical steps can we take to better attune ourselves to Jesus' voice individually and as a church?
- Jesus said, 'I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen.' How should this shape our view of other Christians and churches?
- What is one way you can better match Jesus' love for His flock in your daily life this week?

## LIFE APPLICATION

This week, intentionally practice being part of Jesus' flock by doing two things:

- First, set aside time each day to listen for the Shepherd's voice through prayer and scripture reading.
- Second, reach out to another member of the flock (someone in your church family) whom you don't know well or haven't connected with recently. Invite them for coffee, send an encouraging message, or simply have a conversation after service.

As you do this, reflect on how these actions help you better understand what it means to be part of one unified flock under one Shepherd.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus died not just for individuals but to create one unified flock - His church.
- The four characteristics of Jesus' flock are: those who enter through Jesus, those for whom Jesus died, those who recognize His voice and follow, and those who are joined together as one flock.
- Our loyalty should be to Jesus and His flock, not to buildings, programs, denominations, or leadership positions.
- We need to invite people to respond to Jesus Himself, train believers to listen to the Shepherd's voice, and practice skills that foster unity.
- Being part of Jesus' flock means we must learn to follow His voice above all other voices and influences.

## ENDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for us. We are humbled and grateful that You died not only for our individual salvation but to bring us together as one flock under Your care. Help us to recognize Your voice more clearly and to follow You faithfully. Forgive us when we've placed our loyalty in buildings, traditions, or positions rather than in You and the flock You love. Give us courage to invite others into Your family and wisdom to foster unity among all believers. May we truly reflect Your character and love to one another and to a watching world. As we leave this place, help us to live as faithful members of Your flock this week. In Your name we pray, amen.