



John 10:1-21 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone read John 10:1-21. After the powerful miracle, conflict, and redemption in chapter 9, why do you think that Jesus begins to talk about sheep, shepherds, and doors?
- What do you think Jesus is saying in verses 1-6?
 - Who are the thieves and the robbers?
 - Who are the sheep?
 - What makes the one who climbs in another way a thief and a robber?
- Ben noted that Jesus is criticizing the Pharisees here; He is saying that *they* are thieves and robbers. What do you think makes them thieves and robbers? At risk of pushing the metaphor too far, what kinds of things would the Pharisees do to “take” Jesus’ sheep?
- Ben said that one thing that made the Pharisees especially dangerous is that though they were thieves, they thought they were actually shepherds. How do we distinguish between the true shepherd and those that serve Him from those that are actually thieves? In other words, how can we discern between those that will lead us toward Jesus and those that will lead us away from Him?
- Why does Jesus emphasize that His sheep hear His voice?

- Ben said that Jesus is making the point that God's relationship with us is intensely personal. Why does the personal nature of Christianity matter?
- How does the personal relationship that Jesus offers differ from the strict religion that the Pharisees offer?
- How does the personal aspect of Christianity affect how you discuss your faith with others? Do you find that you talk about your faith differently than people of other religions?
- Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the door? What is the significance of doors, and why would Jesus compare Himself to one?
 - Ben mentioned that doors keep out what we don't want in; they keep us safe. In what ways have you found that Jesus keeps your soul secure, blocking out what is evil and letting in what is good?
 - When have you been grateful that Jesus is the door?
 - When have you been resentful that Jesus is the door? Why would we resent the fact that He sometimes keeps things from us?
- Ben asked a question in his sermon about verse 10: what are the thieves and robbers keeping us from experiencing abundant life with God? What would you say?
 - He said that thieves are more covert; they operate under the surface. What kinds of things in your life are thieves that covertly and quietly try to steal your life and joy?
 - Robbers, on the other hand, are bold, brash, and obvious. What kinds of things are robbers that try to steal your life and joy?
 - What does it look like to rely on Jesus, who is the door, when thieves and robbers try to break into our lives?
- While Jesus might save us *from* the thieves and robbers, He saves us *to* something as well. What is it that Jesus saves us *to* in verse 10?
 - What is abundant life? How would you describe it?

- How is it that abundant life can only be found in Christ?
- Imagine a billionaire that is an unbeliever. They live the most interesting, comfortable, and adventurous life imaginable because of their wealth. How is the life of the believer more abundant than theirs?
- How do we live the abundant life in Jesus?
- Why should we care that Jesus not only saves us *to* something later—heaven—but also *to* something now—abundant life?
- Jesus goes on to describe Himself as the Good Shepherd. What do we learn about Jesus as the Good Shepherd in verses 11-18?
 - What are some of His characteristics?
 - What makes Him *the* Good Shepherd as opposed to *a* Good Shepherd?
 - Read Psalm 23. How does Psalm 23 align with this passage and provide further insight?
- How should our lives look, knowing that Jesus is the Good Shepherd? What traits should characterize Christians who are protected by such a Good Shepherd? Which traits do you feel convicted to cultivate?