

*John 10:1-21*

*THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK OF THESE STUDY GUIDES. NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE BACK TO MEETING IN CLASS. CLASS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, AND WILL START AT 9:15*

A reminder of the suggestions to going through this discussion before you get started!

1. Everyone have a Bible out! Use paper Bibles to take away the distraction of phones!
2. Select one person in your family to lead the discussion!
3. Make sure everyone in the family is taking part in the discussion!
4. Spend time on each discussion point! Try not to "get through it." Try to enjoy the process of learning through it!
5. Don't be afraid to ask and discuss challenging questions while you are studying
6. It can be hard to focus after about 45 minutes! Don't be afraid to set a time limit! You don't have to finish everything in one sitting!

Before reading the passage, discuss with your family what it might feel like to be an innocent sheep in these situations...

- You get lost from the rest of your herd
- An angry, hungry wolf walks out of the bushes and is snarling at you

You discussed those two, silly things in order to help us realize how innocent sheep are. They are not able to care for themselves. In this passage, we are going to be compared to sheep. Allow ourselves to feel that connection to sheep as we continue throughout this passage.

DEFINE A TERM: Sheepfold

- A "Sheepfold" is a secure walled enclosure in which sheep are penned when not out to pasture in care of the shepherd. The sheepfold might be a permanent barn-like enclosure for shelter, an outdoor holding pen with stone walls, or a makeshift barricade of briars and criss-crossed pointed sticks. A single narrow opening was provided for entry and exit. If there was no secure door or gate, a keeper would guard the entrance or at night sleep across it.

Read John 10:1-21

Based in verses 11-15, would you rather have the hired hand as the shepherd, or would you rather have the owner of the sheep as your shepherd? Why?

In our world today, how can we make sure we are following the voice of the owner of the sheep instead of the hired hand or the thieves? What are some qualities of the hired hands or the thieves that we can be on the lookout for?

In verse 16, Jesus talks about how there are other sheep in the world who are not a part of His current flock, but He must bring them to His flock. What can the current sheep (you and I) do in order to encourage other sheep to join our flock and listen to our shepherd's voice?

DIFFICULT QUESTION: It is too often that a fellow sheep will fall out of the flock and become lost. What are some ways that we can make sure that we avoid that happening?

- When is the last time you saw a sheep begin to fall from the flock? What did you do about it?

CHALLENGE FOR LIFE GOING FORWARD: Do NOT let other sheep get stolen by the thieves and robbers. Do NOT let sheep get lost from the herd. Who is that person who has already been stolen from the flock that you are going to reach out to THIS WEEK to make sure that they know they are missed? Who is that person who is starting to fall from the flock that you are going to reach out to this week?

KEEP IN MIND: The only thing that keeps us together is our shepherd... and he LAID DOWN HIS LIFE for us. Let that be encouraging throughout the week!