

Jesus explains that the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (v. 11)

He then says “I lay down my life” three times, all in connection with the Father.

The Father: knows me; loves me; commands me.

How would you counter the claim that the Father is abusing the Son by insisting that the Son die for the sheep, as made by Richard Dawkins?

John 10:16 suggests two classes of sheep: Sheep from this pen, Other sheep not of this pen. Who are they?

Why does Jesus say “I must bring them also”?

Does this passage suggest a worthwhile purpose for your life?

What do you have/what do you need to live out this purpose in your life?

Finish by praying for each other. Pray for each other, that we would all find a challenge and comfort in this passage.



A Light in the Darkness

The Gospel of John

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 6

19 March 2023

“For The Sheep”

John 10:1-21

Series Overview:

In this ten week series, we will look at a Gospel book that is quite different to the other three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). John wrote this book much later than the other writers, and used a different technique and style. We will reflect on passages and stories that are unique to this Gospel, and seek to capture the passion and desire of the author. John primarily wrote this letter so that the readers would believe in Christ, who he describes as a Light in the Darkness. May the Light of Christ shine into our lives as we spend time in this book, and help us to believe in the One who came to bring life in all of its abundance.

Read John 10:1-21

This Sunday's sermon was titled "for the sheep" because it revealed the "why" behind Jesus' actions.

It was suggested that having a purpose in life that is worthwhile can satisfy our soul and contribute to a sense of fulfillment.

Do you agree? Would you add or change anything?

The background for our passage is found in chapter 9 where Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath, and this offended the Pharisees.

What purpose could Jesus have for healing on the Sabbath?

(for more ideas: Luke 6:1-6, 7-11; 13:10-17; 14:1-6; John 5:8-18)

How could it be for the benefit of the Pharisees ("for the sheep")?

In John 10:7-10 Jesus claims the metaphor of "the gate" for himself.

What is significant about gates in the Old Testament?

(Deut 21:18-19; 25:7; Prov 8:3; Jer 17:19-20)

How could it be for the benefit of the Pharisees ("for the sheep")?

Jesus fills out what "for the sheep" means in John 10:10b
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Is your experience of life "to the full"? What do you think is lacking?

In John 10:11-14 Jesus claims the metaphor of "the good shepherd" for himself.

What is significant about shepherds in the Old Testament?

(Psalm 23:1, 28:9, 80:1; Gen 48:15; Jer 31:10 etc)

How could it be for the benefit of the Pharisees ("for the sheep")?