

Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 9:39 - 10:21

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Sermon Summary:

Jesus unfolds another aspect of his ministry through a sheep farming figure of speech. He uses the figure of the good shepherd to differentiate his ministry from that of the bad shepherds (Jewish leaders). He also lays out the means through which he will shepherd God's people, his voluntary sacrifice for them. This image has a dark background that Jesus is drawing upon from Ezekiel 34.

Discussion:

1. Read Ezekiel 34:1-24. What are the characteristics of the bad & good shepherds? Can you see the bad shepherd characteristics in the Pharisees' treatment of the former blind man of Jn. 9?
2. What is the contrast John repeats three times (Jn. 10:1-5; 10:7-11; 10:11-18)?
3. Why is the shepherd's voice so important to sheep? How encouraging is it that God calls you personally by your name? How did God call you to follow him?
4. Have you been in a situation, or do you know someone who has been listening to a bad shepherd's voice? What did that look like? What was the outcome?
5. What is the significance to Jesus saying, "I am the gate for the sheep" and "I am the gate. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved..."?

6. From John's account of the good shepherd, what makes a good shepherd good? Why is it important to see what the good shepherd does, tied to him being the gate?

7. What are the ways in which you hear God's voice? Talk about how you learned to recognize his voice.