

***“Breakthrough!” in 2022***

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 12.04.2022

**THE HIRELING AND THE SHEPHERD-JOHN 10:11-21**

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Jesus is known by over 100 names in the Bible. He is the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley, the alpha and the omega, the consolation of Israel, and He is also ‘the good Shepherd.’ Last week, we began to unpack the meaning of this beautiful title. Today, we will continue to unravel what Jesus meant when He declared Himself to be our Shepherd. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. What “I AM” statements can you recall that Jesus made about Himself? Which one stands out the most to you? Why?
3. If you know you couldn’t fail, what would you do for God?

In these verses, Jesus once again identifies Himself as the good Shepherd, only this time, He contrasts the way He cares for the flock with the way ‘the hireling’ goes about things. One way to view this section is to see it as a comparison between two different kinds of pastors. After all, the word pastor is derived from the Latin word for shepherd.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

**ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 10:11-15**

1. How does Jesus identify Himself with the “good shepherd”? What specific examples does He give in this passage of His provision for His sheep?
2. What does the good shepherd do for the sheep?
3. How would you contrast the Good Shepherd with the Hireling? How does the Hireling treat the sheep?

The good shepherd is the one who loves the sheep enough to lay down his life for them. That’s how we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. And because we are certain He is good, we can, as His flock, trust Him to lead us in the right way. The flock hears the voice of Jesus through the Word of God as well as through the spiritual leadership of their pastors as they represent Jesus.

**ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 10:16-18**

1. What does Jesus mean by “other sheep... which are not of this fold” who will also “hear My voice” (John 10:16)?
2. Who took Jesus’ life on the cross - the Jews or the Romans, other? (vs. 17-18) (What does this tell you about who rose Jesus from the dead?)
3. According to vs 17, why does the Father love His Son?

Jesus’ life wasn’t ‘taken’ from Him. We need to be clear about that. He freely gave His life for us. He could have stopped

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the beatings and the crucifixion any time He wanted to. He demonstrated this when the soldiers came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. When He asked them who they were looking for they said, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ In response, ‘Jesus said, I AM’ and they all fell over backwards.’ {John 18:5} He was just reminding everyone who was really in charge.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:19-21**

1. What caused the "division" among the Jews? (John 10:19)
2. In verse 20-21 we see a division between people who were open to Jesus and those who were not. What implication does this have for us as we share the gospel with people? Explain.
3. How can we be a “good shepherd” to the flock that God calls us to minister to? (Your family, your Growth Group...). What character traits should you have as a good shepherd?

**Knowing Jesus is a lifelong journey that begins the day you accept Him as your Lord and Savior and ends on the day when you meet Him face to face. Even after 30 years of walking with the Lord and planting churches and raising up pastors, the Apostle Paul was still saying, ‘I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings being made conformable to His death, if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.’ {Philippians 3:7} He hadn’t arrived yet.**

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.**

1. What specific challenges are you facing today? What is one step you can take this week to trust the Good Shepherd in that specific area?
2. What does love require when it comes to trusting Jesus’ love and guidance in your life? How can this change the way you treat others?
3. In what area of your life are you most tempted to listen to the lies of Satan? How might we as a group support each other as we seek to root our identity in Jesus, the Son of God who is one with the Father?

**PRAYER** - Close by praying Psalm 23 over your group. Pray also that God will help the group commit His Word to their hearts this week. Pray that each person will remember we are the sheep and Jesus is the Shepherd. We are also under-shepherds called to minister to the flock around us.

**‘Know well the condition of your flocks...’ {Proverbs 27:23}**