

# Bible Study on John 10:1-21

## (for GWAC Connect Groups)

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

(Please allow some time for the section on application too.)

1. Glance through John 9. What is the context for Jesus words in chapter 10?
2. What does Jesus want the Pharisees to understand about leadership? (If time, see also Ezekiel 34:1-24)
3. What is the good shepherd like? Write down all the things Jesus tells us about the shepherd and what he does in John 10. Spend time on each one.

If time, look up these OT verses too:

A) Isaiah 40:11            B) Psalm 95:6-8            B) Psalm 23:1-4.

What is the significance of the shepherd laying down his life?

4. In what ways are the people of God like sheep?
5. How do the sheep in Jesus's story respond to the shepherd? And why?
6. Why does Jesus call himself the gate? V 9
7. Why does Jesus talk about sheep beyond the local sheep pen? v 16
8. What do we learn about the Father and his relationship with the Son and with us from this passage?
9. How did the people who first heard this story respond to Jesus's words and why? V 19-21

## **APPLYING THE PASSAGE**

1. Has Jesus called you? Share with group your experiences and response.
2. Look at the characteristics and actions of the shepherd outlined in Question 3 above. How would you live differently this week if you took to heart the nature of the shepherd described here. How it would effect your:
  - thought life (with respect to yourself and God and others),
  - the way you speak
  - the things you do

Confess to each other and God where you've fallen short in these areas. Pick one thing from the list above you want to focus on putting into practice as a result of this discussion. Pray about it. Ask others in the group to keep you accountable this week. Agree to ask each other how you went applying this truth when you meet next week.

3. What is the main obstacle that stops you from fully participating in the life of the church? How does the story of the good shepherd help you to overcome this obstacle?
4. How would you use this passage to help someone inside the church who is down about themselves and says God seems far away?
5. How would you use this passage to help someone outside the church to understand what it means to be a Christian?