

Small Group Study Notes: 11 October 2026

Theme: The Shepherd who leads his sheep to a rich and satisfying life.

Key Verse: John 10:10

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”

Background

Jesus contrasts Himself with false leaders (John 9 is a good example to look at to illustrate the conflict Jesus had with the leaders in his time). While others may mislead or neglect God's people, Jesus is the true Shepherd who knows, protects, and sacrifices Himself for His sheep; and who brings true life.

Reading: John 10:1-16 (17-21) NLT

Looking into the text:

1. How do the sheep respond to the shepherd's voice?
2. What happens when a stranger calls them?
3. Why does Jesus call Himself "the gate"?
4. What does the thief come to do? (v.10)
5. What does Jesus offer instead? (v.10)
6. How is the Good Shepherd different from the hired hand?
7. What does Jesus say He will do for His sheep?
8. Who are the "other sheep" in verse 16?

Understanding the Passage

→ The Shepherd's Voice

Jesus' followers recognize and respond to His voice through faith, Scripture, and obedience.

→ The Gate

Jesus is the only way to salvation, spiritual security, and abundant life.

→ The Thief and the Shepherd

The thief steals, kills, and destroys. Jesus gives life in all its fullness.

→ The Good Shepherd

Jesus knows His sheep personally and willingly lays down His life for them.

→ Other Sheep

Jesus' mission extends beyond Israel to people of every nation and background.

Life Application

1. What voices compete with Jesus for your attention?
2. How can you better recognize and follow His voice?
3. What does "a rich and satisfying life" mean to you?
4. Where do you need to trust the Good Shepherd more?
5. Who might God be calling you to reach as one of the "other sheep"?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Help us hear Your voice, trust Your leading, and experience the abundant life You offer. Use us to bring others into Your flock. Amen.