



## PARTICIPANTS GUIDE – September 29

**ICEBREAKER: If you could instantly become an expert on one topic, what would it be?**

### *PRIMARY PASSAGE*

#### **John 10:11-21: I Am The Good Shepherd**

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

<sup>19</sup> The Jews who heard these words were again divided. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

<sup>21</sup> But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

### **WHAT IS GOING ON:**

**1.) For those that were at group last week, share what is happening in John 9 and 10. How was Jesus interacting with the Pharisees? What did he claim?**

### **WHAT DOES JESUS CLAIM?**

**2.) In vv. 11-18, Jesus claims to be the Good Shepherd and describes why. This is a stark contrast to Ezekiel 34:1-16 where God condemns the leaders of Israel for being bad shepherds and promises the future Good Shepherd. Take a moment and read each of these passages and compare the descriptions of good and bad leadership. Also, how is Jesus the fulfillment of God's promise in Ez. 34:11-16?**

**3.) In John 10:11-18, what description of Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd stands out the most to you and why?**

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?**

**4.) What does Jesus' claims mean for us today?**

## ***PERSONAL RESPONSE***

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Jesus' statement, "I am the Good Shepherd," shows that he is the leader we need. He provides for us, protects us, and loves us. It's his voice that both comforts us and leads us in the direction towards eternal and abundant life. As we trust him as the guide for every area of our life, we begin to experience the blessings he has for us.

- **Where is one place in your life where you are listening to a "wrong voice?"**
- **How would your life be better if you allowed the Good Shepherd's voice to guide you in that area of your life?**
- **What do you need to do to stop listening to the "wrong voice" and begin listening to the Good Shepherd?**

