

Discussion Questions for John 10:1-21 (week of 7 Feb 2021)

Big Idea:

- Jesus is the Gate and the Good Shepherd.
- *So respond to his voice, enter the gate, and learn to follow his voice.*

Discussion Questions:

1. **THE SHEPHERD.** Jesus, the Good Shepherd, needs to be our hero. That's the sort of attentiveness we need to give to training ourselves to hear his voice — over and against other competing voices. We need to know it, and know when a voice isn't his, as well.
 - i. Have you ever had a hero about whom you may have grown a little obsessed? E.g., Dan and Bo Jackson as a child.
 - ii. Imagine out loud together the effect around us if we “obsessed” about Jesus and “hero worshipped” him and only him. How would or could things be different?
2. **HIS GIFT.** The life Jesus offers is contrasted with counterfeit life the Thief offers, and the Thief's lies intend to bring about death and destruction. The challenge is to train yourself to listen to only Jesus' voice, over and against the Thief's voice.
 - iii. What promises of “Life” does the Thief tell us today? Compare and contrast these counterfeit offers to Jesus' superabundant life (total freedom, total security, absolute flourishing).
 - iv. Imagine out loud together the effect all around us if we were able to discern the Thief's lies because we knew Jesus' voice so well. How would or could things be different?
3. **HIS SHEPHERDING.** Jesus' shepherding provides a right context for actual life, not some fantasy life devoid of suffering and sorrow. Additionally, it provides a model for us (cross-shaped, sacrificial love) and a path to it (this is *how* real life is attained).
 - v. Discuss together how Jesus' example and calling should shape our expectations in this midst of trials and suffering. What is our hope in this context, rightly understood?
 - vi. Imagine out loud together the effect all around us if we were able to live with hope *in the midst of suffering* all around us knowing full well we are bits of God's future here in the present. How would or could things be different?
4. **THE SHEEP.** Jesus' invitation to a superabundant life of flourishing is a *communal* invitation. Not to a solitary sheep all on his/her own, but to a life lived and experienced and demonstrated in community. Following Jesus is a team sport, in other words.
 - vii. Discuss, compare, and contrast some of the possible differences that would result from conceiving of the Christian life as an individual effort rather than a communal effort. How is the Shepherd's call to follow different from what we might think it is as western individuals?
 - viii. Imagine out loud together the effect all around us if we followed Jesus *like the team sport that disciplining is*. How would or could things be different?