

## John 10:7-10 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

## **John 10:7-10:**

### **Sermon Notes for Personal Reflection and Discussion**

#### **1 – Introduction**

The purpose of the following notes is to assist you with either personal reflection and study, small group discussion, or both! The goals are to build upon the instruction and exhortation of the current sermon and sermon series and to equip us individually and corporately to be formed by the written and living Word into Christ-likeness.

Do you find that by Monday morning you do not remember the sermon? Are you looking for something to assist you with your personal reflection, study, and prayer? See section 5 – Study. You can easily take one question per morning. Do you want a resource to assist you with leading group discussion? We hope this guide equips you to address these questions.

#### **2 – Prepare**

You may find it helpful to prepare your heart and mind to read and receive from the Word of God. You may wish to pause, take a deep breath, and set your heart and mind on being present with the Lord and his Word.

Or you may find it helpful to pray the Collect for Purity. “Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our/my hearts/heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we/I may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

#### **3 – Read**

Read the passage aloud. “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (1 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT). Even if you are reading for personal reflection, you may find it helpful to *hear* the word of God.

#### **4 – Reflect**

A simple way to reflect on the word of God is to ask three questions. “What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me?” We call these questions Observation, Interpretation, and Application. These questions are helpful for personal reflection or group discussion.

Be careful not to skip over Observation too fast! You can easily miss an important detail. Interpretation, of course, answers, “What does this reveal about the way, the truth, and the life? (John 14:6). About the person of Jesus?” And finally, Application answers the, “So

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what? Does this have any bearing on how I see, think, speak, and act? On how Christ is formed in me?"

#### **5 - Study**

The following questions are specific to the sermon.

- 1) Introduction – Jamie began by pointing out Jesus’ attention-grabbing words in verse 7, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.” He had already said it earlier in Chapter 10, and by saying it again, he communicates his grace, patience, compassion, mercy, tenderness, and love. In addition to being the Good Shepherd, he is the one true door, the exclusive point of access to abundant life with God.
  - a) Over the course of your life, what have you considered to be evidence of the “abundant life?” What does it look like to you now?
  - b) Jesus gives us a wonderful picture of how to approach others when we have to keep making the same point to them over and over. What did Jesus do to help people truly hear what he was saying? How can you do the same with the people in your life?
- 2) Jesus’ Invitation – In verse 9, Jesus’ revelation is an invitation to us to enter by him as the Shepherd Door, to receive salvation, and “go in and out and find pasture” (peace). Unlike what we typically think of as doors, Jesus pursues us; he is with us as we live and work.
  - a) What are the many ways he has come to you, revealed himself to you, and is bringing you into freedom because you are one of his sheep and he cares for you?
  - b) How does that compare to times when you have been on a quest for a better life? In Ezekiel 34:11, God says, “ ... Behold I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.” Share about a time when you thought you had to find your way on your own, and instead, realized that God was seeking you out and taking the initiative to give you just what you need?
- 3) Trap Doors – In verses 8 and 10, Jesus issues a warning about cheap imitations; trap doors saying that, “All who come before me are thieves and robbers” and “The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.”
  - a) What are some ways people can be deceived into thinking they are living the abundant life, when in fact, what they have are cheap imitations?
  - b) In contrast, how would you define the “abundant life” that Jesus offers us as his sheep? How does that compare with how you answered 1(a) above?
- 4) Jesus Gets the Glory – Jamie pointed out that we can be tempted to fall for the thieves’ and robbers’ schemes, but if we are in Christ, our hope and security are in Christ forever. We can trust him to come after us, find us, protect us, and deliver us. He gets

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the glory because he is the One with all the might, tenderness, grace, provision, and protection.

- a) Name the ways you are most tempted to fall for the schemes of the enemy (thieves and robbers)?
  - b) What has helped you to find your hope and security in Jesus?
  - c) How can we encourage one another to keep our focus on Jesus and see him as the only true Shepherd Door?
- 5) Conclusion – As believers who are in Christ, we know his voice and can believe that he is the one way to access the abundant life and peace he offers. Because he invites us, comes after us, and delivers us, we never have to face life alone. We can rest in the fact that he's got us. To him be the glory!

### **6 – Pray**

Simply pause to thank God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – for his Word, salvation, the work he began in you which he will see to completion, his provision and protection, his peace, and more.

Or you may wish to pray this beautiful prayer, the General Thanksgiving.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Peace.