

Leader Guide 5/22/2022

God is...

John 10

This week we are excited to welcome Pastor Ken Merrifield as he begins this new sermon series. Today we explore **the nature of God** as our Good Shepherd.

Don't overthink it. Just have fun!

- If you were a farm animal, what would you be and why?
- Review the Community Group Guidelines and then have someone pray for the Bible study.

This isn't really a "story" as much as it is an illustration from Jesus. Don't worry about all the details but just do your best. Also be sure not to include commentary in the story. We will get to that with the questions. When you do read the verses you might want to start with verse 1 to pull in additional context but you don't have to.

John 10:11-18. Use the Bible Storytelling technique, retell the story together as a group and then read the story from the Bible.

Jesus is God the Son so we are still talking about the nature of God in Christ.

- What do we learn here about the nature of God?

Sharing here might be a little slow so you might need to kick it off. How do you see your role with the church, your family, or even your Community Group?

- Recognizing that only Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who do you most relate with—shepherd, hired hand, wolf or sheep—and why?

The wolf represents the devil. It is important that your group knows that "hired hands" are not the devil. They need Jesus just like we do. Our fight is not against the hired hands but against the powers of darkness.

- Who do the hired hand and the wolf represent in this story? Why is it important for us to know the difference between these two?

This could get real really fast. Give people time to share and be sure to leave a pause after each one shares.

- Talk about a time in which you might have felt the abandonment of the hired hand or the attack of the wolf.
- What are ways that you have experienced the provision of the Good Shepherd in your life?

As We Go:

- What can you do this week to stay connected to the Good Shepherd even when you encounter hired hands and a wolf?

If you have questions about what your celebration week could look like reach out to Naomi. Next week there will not be a full Bible study but a couple of discussion starters to help with the celebration. Enjoy!

- Next week is the last week of Community Group before the summer! Take some time to plan your celebration week and then close in prayer.
- Discipleship Training starts first week of June! Do you need a book?

Week of May 22, 2022

Houston First Church of God – info@hfcog.org

All Community Group Material can be found at: hfcog.org/communitygroups

Next FREE COFFEE with Naomi is June 5th at 10am – RSVP to Naomi@hfcog.org

Community Group Covenants

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation.
- I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group.
- I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.

Community Group Apprentice Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in the Community Group weekly beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Leader each week and meet with him/her monthly.

Community Group Leader Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple an apprentice in the Community Group weekly beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, leadership skills they are developing in the group meeting and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Coach each week and meet with him/her monthly.