

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.

- 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.

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

- What do we learn here about the nature of God?
- Recognizing that only Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who do you most relate with—shepherd, hired hand, wolf or sheep—and why?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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 the 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 GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.