

The Sacrificial Shepherd

The Mystery of God: The Gospel of John
Church on the Park | Sunday, 08 June 2014

Facilitators: Pita & Tina Taimani

Text: John 10:1-21

Instructions: First, pray that God speaks to you through his word. Next read the Scripture text aloud. Each person in the group should take a turn reading a paragraph to the group. The goal after reading the passage is to have an uplifting discussion about the Scripture.

Discussion Starters:

- 1) Put in your own words what you believe Jesus is communicating. What is the primary imagery that Jesus is using? In other words, how is Jesus describing himself? What analogy/metaphor is he using?
- 2) Is there anything in this section of Scripture that speaks to you? What stands out to you?
- 3) In this section of Scripture Jesus describes himself as the gate and the good shepherd (John 10:7, 11, 14). In what way is Jesus the gate and good shepherd? How would you describe a good shepherd?
- 4) What encourages you the most about the fact that Jesus is a good shepherd? What specific aspect(s) of his shepherding give you security and confidence?
- 5) How does John 10:1-21 relate to Psalm 23? How does David describe God as a shepherd? How can you apply Psalm 23 to this point in your life?
- 6) Are you worried or anxious about anything? How can the understanding of Jesus as your shepherd bring you peace and wholeness?
- 7) Jesus calls himself the gate (John 10:7). The gate to what? Who do you think are those who are trying to get in through some other way besides the gate? What is the danger of not going through the gate? Are there other people or things that try to proclaim themselves as gates? What would Jesus say to them?
- 8) Read Isaiah 40:11. What encouragement does this verse give us?
- 9) What do you think are the main things God wants you to apply to your life based on the verses you read today? How would you encourage someone else with the truths of these passages?

Conclusion: Pray together. Pray about what you have discovered or been reminded of in this study.