**Growth Group Questions for April 30, 2023 – John 10:1-15 (sermon based on vs. 11-15)**

### The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

**10**“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2**The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5**But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” **6**Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

**7**Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8**All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **9**I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26491a)] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**11**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13**The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**14**“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

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**Opening *“Ice Breaker”* questions:**

\* Thinking back to your childhood… and doesn’t that feel pleasant? (hopefully it does…) Can you think of a time where your mother and/or father arrived on the scene just in time to save you from a really unpleasant or dangerous situation? What emotions towards your parents do you think you felt at that moment? What emotions do you think your parents felt towards you?

\* Pastor Schone stated that a joy of marriage is “always having someone to take care of you”. Recall a significant time when your spouse was right there to take care of you. Share the event and what impact their care and love had on you on that day and perhaps beyond.

**Questions for discussion:**

1) The opening verses mention both a “gate” and a “good shepherd”. I’m sure you recall past sermons focusing on the good shepherd – do you recall any on the gate to the sheep pen? How is Jesus both the gate and the good shepherd?

2) In this metaphor, who is/are: the wolf, the sheep, the hired hand?

3) What key trait separates the good shepherd from the hired hand?

4) A dedicated shepherd (other than Jesus) could “potentially” (although unlikely) battle a wolf and die for the sheep. What two major factors set Jesus’ role as the good shepherd apart?

5) What tremendous relationship exists between the good shepherd and his sheep? (Ref. vs. 14-15) Think about the depth of that relationship…