

# **Growth Group Questions**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), May 11, 2025*

## **Introduction**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is always celebrated as “Good Shepherd” Sunday, with rotating gospel readings from John 10. What is your favorite part of God’s picture of Jesus as shepherd and us as sheep?

## **Into the Word** – Acts 13:15-16a, 26-39

1. This account from the city of Antioch is nearly the beginning of Paul’s first missionary journey. Describe his missionary style as you see it here or know it from other readings.
2. Even though the people of Jerusalem condemned Jesus, what was God accomplishing through them? (End of v. 27) How does that thought fit with our theme for worship today?
3. We almost take it for granted now in this 4<sup>th</sup> week of Easter, but what important evidence of resurrection does Luke remind us of in v. 31?
4. Read Psalm 2. What qualities of the Messiah do you see there?
5. Explain verse 39, and why no one is able to obtain justification under the law of Moses, but we have it through faith in Jesus.

## **Into the Word** – Revelation 7:9-17

6. Describe the crowd of people in heaven. Explain the significance of the white robes and the palm branches. (If you have time, discuss the pros/cons of pastors wearing robes vs. not wearing robes.)
7. Who do the saints in heaven give credit to for their place there?

8. The “great tribulation” is a time of Christian persecution, false prophets, and natural disasters. Explain how this could be a time in the future or could be our present time now. (Note in 6:10 they are waiting for the end to come yet. This can’t be a time of tribulation after Jesus’ return, as some teach.)
9. Heaven is described with different pictures in different places. What does John here say we will do in heaven?
10. Choose your favorite verse from this section and say a prayer of thanksgiving for our future blessing in heaven.

## **Into the Word** – John 10:22-30

11. When the Jews asked if Jesus was the Christ, what two testimonies does he point to? (v. 25)
12. Explain the roles of shepherd and sheep as they are laid out in v. 27.
13. What comfort does v. 29 give to us sinful sheep who keep wandering away?
14. Does this mean that once we have faith we can never fall away?
15. Why is verse 30 significant? What do you think the reaction was in verse 31? (Answer, THEN look it up!)

**Closing Prayer:** Jesus our Shepherd, you guide us faithfully through this world of death to green pastures and quiet waters with you. Let that future peace give us comfort in times of trouble here. Keep us safe in your hands as we follow you. Bless us this week and always. Amen.