



Week 4 – The Door & the Good Shepherd

Announcements

401 Small Group Training – Get ready to lead a small group. 401 Small Group Training will take place on Sunday, March 22 at 5:00PM at the Little Creek Campus. For more information, email [smallgroups @churchoftheking.com](mailto:smallgroups@churchoftheking.com).

Warm-up

Name someone with whom you have a close relationship. What are some ways the two of you know each other well?

Word and Application

In John 10, Jesus describes His love for us by painting the picture of a flock of sheep being cared for by a shepherd. The shepherd protects his sheep by placing them in a closed pen that has just one entrance secured by a gate.

In present times, most of us are not particularly familiar with the technicalities of raising sheep. However, in Jesus' time this was a very common occupation, and Jesus' use of this metaphor would have immediately been clear to His listeners.

If you ever encounter a passage of Scripture that is difficult to understand, a good place to start is to research the historical context. If you can understand what the passage meant to readers in ancient times, it can be much easier to apply it to your own life.

Jesus describes Himself both as the Good Shepherd and as the Gate. The image of the Good Shepherd describes the way that Jesus cares for our every need, and guides us through life. The image of the Gate describes the way that Jesus protects us from evil.

Small group lessons are available at Cotkleaders.com

To gain a closer relationship with Jesus, it helps to understand how we can get to know Him better. Let's take a look at **Three Ways We Know Christ** revealed in Scripture.

1. Know His voice.

Read John 10:27. This Scripture shows us that everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior is able to hear Him speaking to us. What an incredible privilege? Hearing God's voice is not restricted to pastors or seasoned Christians only – it is available to anyone who has given their heart to Christ!

Read John 14:15. What does this passage have to say about how we should respond when we hear God's voice?

Why do you think it can be hard to obey God, even if you know He is asking you to do something?

2. Know His ways.

Read John 10:4---5. This Scripture shows us that we can learn to differentiate between what God is telling us to do, and what the world (or our own selfish desires) is telling us to do.

Read John 5:39---40. Jesus is telling us that a relationship with Him involves much more than just intellectual knowledge. We can't just study God – we have to respond to Him with faith and obedience.

Have you ever experienced a moment when God asked you to do something, and you didn't fully understand why He was asking you to do this? What happened as a result of your faith?

3. Know His love.

Read John 10:10---11. In ancient times, shepherds would put their own life on the line to protect their sheep. In this verse, Jesus is alluding to the sacrifice He would make on the cross.

Read Romans 5:8. Jesus Christ didn't just die for Believers – He died for everyone who has ever lived. Think about that for a moment. God knew that many would reject Him, yet He still sent His own Son to die for them.

So many of our hang---ups and struggles come down to just one thing – a lack of understanding of how much God loves us. If you struggle to believe that God loves You, then take a moment now to ask Him to show you His love. When you experience the depth of God's love for you, your life will never be the same.

How has this small group lesson impacted you?

Prayer

Close in prayer by telling God how much you desire to know Him more. Ask that God would speak to every person in the group, and reveal His incredible love to all of us.