

Week 12: Lead Others to Jesus Pt 2

John 10:1-17, 27-29

To be studied in preparation for December 9, 2018.

Leader's Note: Please refer to the resource, "Storying," available [on our website](#), for a detailed guide on how to facilitate storying in your group.

this is life:

A people apprenticed to
the Life of Jesus

Why We Have Gathered

Our common goal as apprentices of Jesus is to learn to be *loved by Jesus*, to be *led by Jesus*, to *become like Jesus*, to *lead others to Jesus*.

Establishing "Safe Harbour"

For us to open up to God and one another, the environment needs to be safe, and we each need to be safe for each other. Let's remember the following guidelines:

- Practice *good listening skills*
- Honour "*sharing boundaries*" and *confidentiality*
- *Don't try to fix, problem-solve or rescue*. Our aim is "*gospel fluency*"
- Practice *healthy conflict resolution*
- Seek to be *co-learners* and make this a safe space to ask *any and all questions*.

Week 12 Follow-up: *Who is someone in whom you are seeing "Elder Brother" Jesus at work? How could you join in what Jesus is doing by coming alongside him/her, investing your own life to encourage, celebrate, and share your wisdom in Christ?*

Entering Into the Story: John 10:1-17,27-29

Setting the Scene: In John 9, Jesus confronts the Pharisees, who claim to be the "shepherds" of Israel, yet will not acknowledge "God in flesh" among them. The teaching that follows in John 10 must be heard within the wider context of Israel's history. Shepherds are not only part of the social fabric of Israel's culture; many of the "fathers" of Israel were shepherds, and shepherds are God's preferred metaphor for leadership (as with Moses and David). Prophets such as Isaiah and Ezekiel denounced the corrupt leaders of Israel who used their leadership to exploit the people for selfish gain, and looked forward to a day when God would come and shepherd his people with justice and righteousness (see Ezekiel 34). With that tradition in mind, Jesus addresses two audiences: those who long for that kind of shepherd, and those who have lost God's vision for their shepherding role. As you listen, consider both the invitation and the rebuke; we may need to hear both. As usual, consider: **Who or what do you relate to most in this teaching, and why?**

Tell the Story: The leader will tell John 10:1-17, 27-29 from memory..

Rebuild the Story: Let's open up our Bibles to John 10:1-17, 27-29.

- *Walk through, chronologically, verse by verse, asking "Who, What, Where, When, How, and sometimes Why" questions. Where did the leader add or omit details?*

Read the Story: Read the story in one translation. If you have time, you might choose to read a second translation as well.

Debrief the Story: Let's respond to the following questions:

- Who or what do you relate to in this story, and why?
- What questions arise for you out of Jesus' parables?
- What vision or goal are the positive images in this story calling us toward?
- What "loss of vision" does this story critique? How could this apply to the church today?
- How is this story a picture of the fourth movement of apprenticeship, "fishing for people"?
- In **John 21:15-19**, Jesus restores Peter, and calls him to "feed my lambs." In **1 Peter 5:1-4** Peter entrusts the shepherding role to the next generation of leaders in the church. What outcome of apprenticeship do these additional passages point to?
- What are the practical implications of what Jesus' story (plus John 21 and 1 Peter 5) teaches for our lives TODAY?
- What specific action do you sense God asking you/us to do as a result of our conversation with Him through his Word?

Praying for One Another

Using the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a guide, and based on what has come to the surface in your sharing together, lift one another to God in prayer.

WORSHIP

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Express your thanks and praise to your heavenly Father for his work in your lives.

PETITION

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

Invite God to be King in the various areas of your life, as well as for practical needs, people far from God, the church's mission and its leadership.

CONFESSION

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

Repent of any sin, express forgiveness regarding any broken relationship, and ask for God's help in bringing reconciliation wherever it is needed.

ENGAGEMENT

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Ask God to lead, protect and heal you wherever it is needed. Give time to listen and respond to the Spirit's voice.

WORSHIP

For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Close by praising God for who he is, and for anticipated opportunities and answers to prayer.

Leader Notes

There are many lessons to draw from John 10:1-17, and they are all very important for apprentices of Jesus to grasp (though some of them are difficult, v 6):

- The importance of knowing the difference between the Shepherd's voice and the voice of imposters.
- The promise that those who listen to Jesus, who enter through Jesus, and who trust Jesus, will be saved and find safe pasture.
- The life-saving sacrifice of the Shepherd, which also serves as an example of how a shepherd must lead.
- The authority of Jesus to lay down and take up his life again.
- The life-giving nature of the Shepherd's leadership.

This Advent series is focused on the fourth movement of Jesus' call, "Come, follow me, and I will make you FISHERS OF PEOPLE" (Matthew 4:19). Jesus invites his disciples, in a variety of ways, to follow him and listen to his teaching. He also wants them to adopt his model, not only in his way of life but in his mission. We see this especially in the fact that Jesus entrusts an element of the shepherding role to Peter, his apprentice (John 21). Peter later reproduces that model again in the lives of the churches that he leads (1 Peter 5). From this we can see that Jesus intends for the shepherding leadership that he exercises/describes to be reproduced in the lives of his apprentices.

As you facilitate the discussion, encourage the group to consider the two angles of Jesus' teaching:

- His invitation to listen to his voice, and the promises that come to those who do.
- His model of shepherding leadership, which the Pharisees had failed to model (as uninvested "hired hands"), but he desires his own apprentices to reproduce.