

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

John 10:1-10

For Starting

- If you could add a thirteenth month into the year where would you put it and what would you name it?
- Have you ever lost your keys and were locked out?
- What would you do if you had a key to unlock *any* door?
- Describe a time when someone showed you deep compassion/love like Jesus?

For Reviewing

- What does Jesus call the one who does *not* use the door to enter the sheepfold (v.1)? What kind of person is described?
- Who is the one who enters through the door of the sheepfold (v.2)? What are his characteristics (v.3-5)?
- Did the people understand what Jesus said to them (v.6)?
- What does Jesus say about himself (v.7)? Why was this a significant declaration?
- Who do you think the “all” refers to in v.8?
- What do the sheep do in the “pasture” (v.9)?
- Who do you think the “thief” refers to, in v.10?

For Discussion

- Jesus begins this section with “I tell you the truth”. What does this tell you about the importance of what he declares?
- Why is it important for the sheep to know the shepherd's voice? What can happen if they do not recognize him?
- Note the people that God specifically called by name? e.g. Gen 22:11, Gen 46:2, Ex 3:4, 1 Sam 3:10, Luke 10:41, Acts 9:4. Discuss why each encounter was a turning-point for them.
- Why was the parable of the Door difficult to understand?
- “*By contrast with the true Shepherd, the ‘thieves and robbers’ stand self-condemned.*” Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not? How does this encourage us to share our faith with others?
- You could end by reading together John 10:7-9.

John 10:1-10 (NIVUK)

¹ “I tell you the truth, the man 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 man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman 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 recognise a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He 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.