

DISCUSSION 1

Jesus gives illustrations (vv. 1 - 6)

1. In the first illustration (vv. 1-3a), it seems as though Jesus is challenging the gatekeepers, who are the religious leaders in Israel. Given this, why does Jesus say they should be opening the gate for him, and why aren't they doing that?
2. Read the second illustration that Jesus gives (vv. 3b-5). Why is it important for the sheep to know the voice of the shepherd? How do the sheep respond to a stranger's voice? What does it say about our hearts if we are listening to other voices more than Jesus's?
3. Why do you think the people did not understand Jesus's illustrations? Why do you think people have trouble with Jesus's message today?

DISCUSSION 2

Jesus gives life (vv. 7-10)

1. To whom was Jesus referring when he said that all who came before him were "thieves and robbers"?
2. What connections can we make between Jesus saying, "I am the door" (v. 10) and saying, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (14:6)?
3. If you are a Christian, how do you live out the full, joyful, and abundant life that you have in Christ? What steps can you take to more fully live in that truth?

DISCUSSION 3

Jesus gives his own life (vv. 11-21)

1. Jesus, as the “Good Shepherd,” contrasts himself to the bad “shepherds of Israel” in Ezekiel 34 who neglected to watch over and care for their flock. In verses 11-14, how does Jesus contrast his shepherding with those who are not real shepherds?
2. How does Jesus describe his relationship to God the Father? How does he relate that to his relationship with his sheep? How does this encourage you?
3. Read the responses of the people in vv. 19-21. What is your response to both Jesus’s authority and his desire to lay his life down for his sheep?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Why do sheep need a shepherd? Why do they need a good shepherd? How are we like sheep?
2. Who is the only person who can save us? How?
3. Why did Jesus have to die for our sins?

APPLICATION

- Our pastors/shepherds are called to reflect the “Good Shepherd” and sacrifice their life for Jesus’s flock. How have you seen the pastors of College Park live out this calling? Take time this week to thank and encourage these leaders for how God is using them in your life.
- Think through what voices you may be listening to that are not in line with Jesus’s. Then, meditate on this and write down some ways that you can grow in knowing your Shepherd’s voice better.