

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

The Good Shepherd: John 10:1–18 (*read Ezekiel 34 for context*)

Big Idea: Jesus is the only Door into God’s flock and the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep by name, lays down His life for them, and gathers one unified flock. When we listen to His voice, we experience abundant life and learn to shepherd others.

1) Read: John 10:1–18 aloud. Ask someone else to read Ezekiel 34. Invite God to speak; pray for wisdom and understanding.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2–3)

- What images and roles do you notice (sheepfold, gate, gatekeeper, shepherd, thief, hired hand, wolf)?
- What actions does the shepherd take? What do the sheep do? What do thieves/hired hands do?
- According to verses 7–10, what happens to those who enter through the Door? What is Jesus’ warning about?
- In verses 11–18, how does Jesus describe His care and His authority? Who are the “other sheep”?
- Where in the passage is the word “life” used? What kind of life is promised?

3) See the Connections

- Context: John 9 records Jesus healing a blind man and confronting religious leaders who “do not see.” Ezekiel 34 rebukes Israel’s shepherds for feeding themselves while neglecting the flock; God promises to shepherd His people and judge between sheep and goats.
- **Word Work:**
 - *thyrōros* (gatekeeper/porter) knows the shepherd and opens the door.
 - *paroimia* (“figure of speech”) signals that Jesus is teaching by metaphor.
 - “*Kalos poimēn*” (“good shepherd”) emphasizes noble, sacrificial care.
- **Cross references:**
 - **Psalm 23** (the Lord is my shepherd)
 - **Isaiah 40:11** (God gathers lambs)
 - **Luke 15:3–7** (Lost Sheep)
 - **John 14:6** (The Way, Truth and Life)
 - **1 Peter 5:4** (Chief Shepherd)
 - **Revelation 7:9–17** (one flock worshipping the Lamb).
 - **Matthew 7:13-14 and Luke 13:24** (Enter through the Door)
 - **Ephesians 4:4-6** (One Body, One Spirit)

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **Jesus is the Door:** Salvation comes only through Him. There is no other legitimate entrance into God’s kingdom.
- **The Good Shepherd sacrifices:** He lays down His life and

takes it up again. His death and resurrection secure our salvation and exemplify true leadership.

- **He knows and calls:** The shepherd knows each sheep by name. They recognize His voice and follow; they flee strangers.
- **Warning:** Thieves and hired hands seek to exploit; true sheep will not listen to them.
- **One flock and One Shepherd:** Jesus gathers “other sheep,” bringing Jews and Gentiles into one family under one Shepherd. Unity flows from listening to His voice. (Ephesians 2:14-16)

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Respond & believe:** Place your trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection; stop climbing over walls. Enter through the Door.
- **Listen & obey:** Cultivate discernment through Scripture, prayer and fellowship. Pay attention to the Shepherd’s voice and flee voices that contradict Him.
- **Shepherd & guard:** Care for those God entrusts to you. As a gatekeeper, welcome Christ and His sheep and close the gate to wolves and lies. Encourage unity.
- Commitment log – For 7 days, keep a simple log:
 - Pray: “*Lord, tune my ear to Your voice.*”

- **Plan:** One concrete step of obedience.
- **Practice:** One habit to keep you close to the Shepherd (memorize Psalm 23; prayer walk; serve someone).

6) Pray the Text (John 10:1–18)

- **Praise:** Thank Jesus for being the Door and the Good Shepherd.
- **Surrender:** *“I entrust myself to Your care; protect me from strangers and hired hands.”*
- **Dependence:** *“You laid down Your life for me; help me trust You for abundant life.”*
- **Mission:** *“Use me to gather other sheep into Your fold.”*

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Memorize John 10:11 together; talk about how sheep learn the shepherd’s voice and ways to listen to Jesus this week.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Identify one practice or voice that keeps you from following Christ. Decide together how to replace it with listening to His voice.

- **Students/Young Adults:** List the loudest voices in your life (media, friends, fear). Which align with Jesus? Choose one habit that helps you hear Him better.
- **New to Faith:** Reread John 10:1–18. Talk with a mature believer about entering through the Door. Share what God is doing with someone at church.
- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Reflect on times you have sensed the Shepherd's guidance. Write a note or call someone younger to encourage them to listen and follow.

Additional Notes or Questions: