

# Family Group Midweek Lessons

July 24, 2013



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## I AM: The Good Shepherd

*This Family Group Bible-Talk is intended to supplement the July 21st sermon at the MSPCOC. Although having attended or listened to that lesson is helpful, it is not required to take part in the following discussion.*

### **Opening Activity:**

- *We are going to play a game called "Two Truths and a Lie"*
- *Ask all players to arrange themselves in a circle.*
- *Instruct each player to write down three statements about themselves. Two must be true statements, and one must be false.*
- *Have each person then share the three statements (in any order) to the group.*
- *Once they have read their three statements, the rest of the group will write down that person's name and whether they thought statement 1, 2, or 3 was the false statement.*
- *After everyone has written down which statement they believe to be false, the person can reveal which one was false. Play then moves on to the next person*
- *The winner is the person who guesses correctly the most regarding which statements were false.*
- *For Today's study we will start out with two truths and a lie about Jesus. I wonder if you can guess which statement is false.*
  - *Jesus is the Gate*
  - *Jesus is the Good Shepherd*
  - *Jesus was demon-possessed*

**Read: John 10:1-6**

### **Group Questions:**

- *If the sheep pen to which Jesus was referring was the family of God, what was his point about saying that some would follow the shepherd's voice and some would not?*
- *What voices other than the shepherd's are you sometimes tempted to follow?*

**Read: John 10:7-10**

**Group Questions:**

- What did Jesus mean by declaring that he was the gate for the sheep?
- What about that statement would have been so challenging for his Jewish listeners?
- Why do you think, in verse 9, that he said people must enter “through” him?
- Keeping in mind, that “the life” in John was the “life of the age to come” that Jesus had and was making available to all, what do you think verse 10 means?

**Read: John 10:11-18**

**Group Questions:**

- Think of Psalm 23. Who is the shepherd in that passage (and many other OT passages)? Why would that have made Jesus’ statement here so challenging?
- What is the distinction that Jesus was drawing here between Israel’s leaders, the hired hands, and what he, as the good shepherd, was going to do?
- How does 1 John 3:16 help us apply this principle of Jesus’ life and leadership to our own lives?
- What is most challenging to you about constantly laying down your life for the benefit of others?

**Read: John 10:19-21**

**Group Questions:**

- *Jesus’ words will always divide. Many heard him speak and accused him of being demon possessed.*
- They asked a good question, though: Why listen to him?
- Why do you listen to Jesus? Why do you personally believe him to be the Gate and the Good Shepherd rather than demon-possessed?

**Final Thought:**

- What is one thing that you can do this week to lay down your life for someone else’s benefit?



Inner Action Ministries