



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Series: Fake ID

John 10

### **Note to Leaders:**

You may want to have a couple of extra Bibles on hand in case someone doesn't have one. Feel free to take a few from the sanctuary and then tell them to keep them. Have a small snack/dessert for the group when they gather and hang around the food to get to know each other as everyone begins to gather. Once everyone has arrived and it starts to feel natural to move into the room where you will have discussion, call them all together. Make sure phones are off, kids are taken care of and room is free of distractions.

If this is your first meeting, ask everyone to go around and introduce themselves and how long they have been attending Lake Forest. Ask them also to share if this is the first Community Group they have ever been in or not.

If this is your first meeting, remind them of the time you will meet each week and talk about the following details: \*everything here stays confidential; \*childcare; \*try to make at least 5 of the 7 meetings; \*have everyone sign up to bring a snack at least one of the next 6 meetings; \*we will end on time each week and encourage you to share as much as you are comfortable.

Pray for the time of study.

### **Introduce It:**

(Story from Pastor Mitch) Last week I was keeping a neighbor's dogs while they were out of town. One of the dogs got out of the gate and was now in the neighbor's yard. I called its name over and over but it wouldn't come to me. It just stood there and barked at me. I was irritated because it was 11pm and the dog just stood there barking at me, waking up the neighborhood. "Why won't you just get over here?" I thought. Well, I more than thought it, I yelled it at the dog, believing that if it saw and heard my frustration it might actually give in. Yet, no matter how much I called to it, it wouldn't come. So, I went to plan B and cornered it, picked it up, and "nicely" threw it back into the right yard. Needless to say, it ran right into the house, running from me again but in the right direction at least.

As a group, share similar stories of situations you have been in when a person or an animal just wouldn't come near you, even though you called it by name. Why wouldn't they come? Why do you think this dog wouldn't come to me?

### **Study It:**

Turn to John 10 and have someone in the group read verses 1-6.

Looking back into chapter 9 a couple of verses, who is it that Jesus is talking to? What do you know about this group of people?

\*He is talking to the Pharisees. The highest sect of Judaism, those that were the religious leaders of the day that were constantly watching if people kept the law or not.

Jesus tells a parable that has lots of characters in the story. Name all the characters in this story and how Jesus describes them. (Hint: there are 5)

\*Man that climbs the gate-described as a robber and a thief

\*Man that enters through gate-described as the shepherd

\*The watchman-one that guards the gate and only lets the shepherd in

\*The Shepherds Sheep-listen only to the shepherds voice and go with him when he calls

\*The sheep not the shepherds-stay in the pen

What do we learn in this story are the reasons why someone would enter the sheep pen?

\*To steal them or to lead them out for their good.

Jesus tells these stories to help his audience see themselves in the story and to see him. Which character do you guess that Jesus is in the story? The Pharisees? Why?

\*Jesus is seen as the shepherd and the Pharisees are seen as the thief/robber most of the time. But we will learn that he is actually the watchman.

What do we learn is the response of the Pharisees?

\*They don't understand

Have someone in the group read verses 7-13

What/Who does Jesus describe himself as in the story?

\*He is the gate and the Shepherd.

As he describes himself as the gate, what is the difference between him and those that have come before him?

\*As the gate, you come in and go out of the pen and you are safe. He guards and protects you by not letting others in. The thief has 3 main purposes-to steal, kill and destroy. But the gate is there to give life and a full life.

What is the response the sheep should have to the thief and how can you apply this response?

\*vs 8: don't listen to it.

As Jesus describes himself as the shepherd, he then describes the hired help (or the watchman). What are all the differences between the shepherd and the hired help?

\*Shepherd: lays down his life; Hired help abandons the sheep when the wolf comes.

\*Shepherd loves his sheep; Hired help cares nothing about the sheep.

We see in this section that a new character appears-a wolf. His role is the same as the thief/robber-to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus tells us who he is in this story but we are not told who the Pharisees are. Who do you think the Pharisees are in this story? What characters are left and who do you think they are?

\*The Pharisees are the watchmen/hired help. God has charged them to protect the sheep by opening the gate for them and letting the shepherd in. They have let thieves jump the fence; they have opened the wrong gates.

\*The wolf/Thief/Robbers are Satan himself and all the ways that comes to steal, kill and destroy.

During this series, we are discussing many of the voices that we tend to believe-the lies we believe about ourselves. This passage would describe those lies as the "thief/robber". Share with the group some of the lies that you are tempted to believe that steal, kill and destroy life in you? How have you seen these lies take life from you?

If those are lies, then what would the gate, Jesus, the one that comes to give you life, say differently about who you are? Is this hard to believe or not for you? Why?

In many ways your community group can be good watchmen for one another. Talk as a group about ways you hope this community would help you hear the voice of the shepherd. How do you hope that being in community with others would help you stay away from the things that want to steal, kill and destroy the life in you?

Much of this series is knowing "who we are in Jesus" but it's also about knowing who Jesus is. To close your time together, read John 10:14-18. What all do you learn about your Shepherd that gives you life?

\*He is good; he knows me and I know him; he lays down his life for me; he loves me that much; he loves many and I am a part of a large flock; he is obedient to his Father and his Father loves me as well.

As sheep, what choice do we have and how will you choose? (hint: verse 8, 16)

\*Listen to the shepherd's voice-follow his voice only!

### **Use It:**

Leader-give everyone in the group an index card and a pen.

What is one truth that you have learned tonight, a word from your shepherd that you need to listen to and believe? Write it on the index card and then place it somewhere you can see every day this week. Maybe it's on your mirror, the dashboard of your car or your computer.

### **Prayer:**

Father, as we learn your voice and are able to distinguish it from the thief's; would you protect us. And as we hear your voice, would you help us to run to you and run from the voices of those that want to steal, kill and destroy. Teach us Your voice-the voice of life. In Jesus name, Amen.