

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

11 May 2025, Scottsville Community Church, 9 am

SERIES:

Resurrection Life – a new dimension for human existence

TOPIC:

ABUNDANT LIFE: Redeemed, guided and kept by an eternal Shepherd

READINGS: John 10:22-30, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17

OUTLINE

- The Shepherd's sheep
 - The Shepherd's guiding voice
 - The Shepherd's eternal care for the sheep
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ICEBREAKER

In the sermon I introduced you to my early life as a shepherd and to **Wangihleba**, my grandpa's white bull. What are some of your most fond childhood memories? Why do you think God arranged for you to have such an upbringing?

THE TEXT

1. Introduction (Psalm 23)

The shepherd, whom David identify as the LORD (Yahweh), offers himself to his people as a shepherd who provides, protects, restores and makes his presence accessible.

- (a) How has God been **practically** all of this to you lately?
- (b) In Jeremiah 31:3 we discovered that God's goodness towards us has nothing to do with us. He has always loved the sheep. How is this fact good news to you in your current challenge?

2. The Shepherd's sheep

The church is for everyone. Everyone. **It is for the gay person you hate** and the adulterer you despise and the corrupt politician you plan to vote out. It is the sick who need a physician. You and I are one of those sick people! While all are called (invited/welcome), few are chosen (saved). In John 10:22-30, we discovered the true sheep are those who believe in Jesus as the Messiah/Son of God (as certified by the resurrection, see also v18), and those who hear his voice and follow him(v27). An understanding of Jesus as God precedes salvation (Rom 10:9).

- (a) What are some of the things non-Christians say about Jesus today, and especially about the resurrection?
- (b) God's Word has a place in a heart of a true sheep. How do you interact with your Bible during the week? What help do you need?

3. The Shepherd's guiding voice

The Good Shepherd guides the sheep today through his voice, the Bible. His rod (the sword of the Spirit) and his staff (the light unto our feet) are still available to comfort and direct **the forever** naïve sheep.

- (a) God speaks to these people directly and indirectly **through the Bible**. Can you give examples (not too personal) of instances where you have recently used God's Word to make a decision, directly and indirectly.
- (b) In instances where you think God addressed the issue/s in (a) indirectly, how do you know that your assessment of the problem was correct?

4. The Shepherd's eternal care for the sheep

The reality of the Shepherd's guidance ensures the sheep do not wander aimlessly and hurt themselves. 'Esandleni sakhe, izimvu ziyagcinwa, noma ungathini!'. But there is more, this relationship is eternal. As we saw in Romans 8:32, the Shepherd who loved the sheep from eternity will complete the purpose he had in loving them from eternity. In John 10:28-29, the Son and the Father will make this happen.

- (a) How is this good news to you?
- (b) How are we to deal with the Judas' of our times, people whose conformity looks real but after many years fall away?