



## Growth Group Curriculum

March 12, 2023 – John 2:18-22, John 10:22-30, John 7:1-5<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Numbers 27:15-17, John 10:3, John 10:14, John 10:27, Luke 23:44-46

“God’s Got Us”

**Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.**

The gospel of John often shows Jesus in Jerusalem preaching and teaching and healing during the various festivals that Israel observed. In John 10 Jesus has arrived during the Feast of Dedication. Today we would call this feast Hanukkah. The feast was celebrated for eight days during the month of December. In 168 or 167 B.C. a Greek Hellenistic king by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes had desecrated the Jewish temple and within its confines built an altar to Zeus and then made sacrifices to Zeus.

Three years later to the day a man by the name of Judas Maccabeus led a revolt in which the temple was taken back by the Jewish people and restored, purified and rededicated. Lamps had been lit. From that time on this festival had been kept. This was the last time there had been a national deliverance of Israel and the Jewish people continued to wait expectantly for God to bring freedom once again.

The crowd and religious leaders want Jesus to make things plain. They were expecting a Messiah but the words and actions of Jesus had confused them. In the first part of John 10 Jesus had spent a considerable amount of time talking about sheep and shepherds. These were common images in the Old Testament, and yet the people could not see how Jesus was connecting these images to their relationship with him and God. Not only do the sheep hear and obey him (John 10:3 and 10:27), but in their relationship with Jesus as the shepherd his sheep find their security (John 10:9 and 10:28).

Jesus makes it clear that eternal life is a gift. We are completely dependent on the shepherd to receive that gift and our calling is to live in gratitude to God for the salvation that has come our way. Jesus also assures his followers that God will not let go of them. No one can snatch them from the hands of Jesus and God.



The protection of the sheep is a shared work of the Father and the Son. Jesus is not talking about two separate gods, but continues to make the point that he and the Father are one. Throughout the gospel of John from the “Word” being declared as God in John 1:1 to the final confession of Thomas in John 20:28 where we hear Thomas say “my Lord and my God” the point is clear. Jesus is God, or as Jesus says in John 10:30, “the father and I are one.”

### Exploring the Text

**John 2:18-22** 18 The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” 20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

**John 10:22-30** 22 Then came the Festival of Dedication[a] at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[b]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

**John 7:1-5** 1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want[a] to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, 3 Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

**Numbers 27:15-17** 15 Moses said to the Lord, 16 “May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community 17 to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

**John 10:3** 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

**Matthew 14:22-31** 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” 28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” 29 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”



**Luke 23:44-46** 44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

## Questions

*If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.*

1. In both John 2:18-22 and John 10:22-30, the religious leaders of Jesus’ time keep asking him to “show them” that he had authority, or to tell them “plainly” who he was. Many of them had heard of the miracles Jesus had performed and some had even witnessed them. Why do you think they failed to believe that Jesus really was the Messiah?
2. In John 7:15, we see that not even Jesus’ own half-brothers believed in Him. Why do you think his brother’s refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah?
3. Why do you think so many people today refuse to believe in Jesus as the Son of God?
4. We see the image of a shepherd throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Why do you think God chose to use this particular image?
5. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that uses the image of the shepherd to describe the type of relationship we can have with God once we believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
6. In the first part of John 10:27, Jesus says: “My sheep listen to my voice...” How do we listen to the voice of God? What can block us from hearing His voice?
7. Musicians often speak of “training their ears.” What do they mean by that? How can we apply the musician’s attempt at “ear training” to help us learn to listen more closely to God’s voice?
8. Pastor Paul told us that whoever or whatever we follow will determine how we behave – how we act and speak. In what ways have you seen this be proven true? In others? In yourself?
9. In the second part of John 10:27, Jesus says: “I know them.” What other Bible verses speak to the ways in which God knows us and sees us? How does this give you comfort?
10. Jesus’s promises in John 10:28-29, the story of Jesus’ walking on the water and Simon Peter’ response in Matthew 14:22-23, and Jesus’s final words on the cross captured in Luke 23:44-46, all underscore the title of this sermon: God’s Got Us. How can we help ourselves and each other continue to remember this as we go about our daily lives?

