

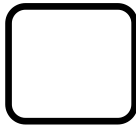
## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

*Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

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1. **Make the message your own.** Look at the message outline on the back of the worship folder to review this weekend's message on John 10:28-30. Small group discussion gives you an opportunity to review what you heard.
  - a. Each person share one memorable "take away" or truth from the weekend message you heard.
  - b. Did the message raise a question in your mind that you would like to discuss? Perhaps your friends can help you find an answer. If not, choose someone to send your question to the preacher.
  
2. The book of Revelation is a series of visions that Jesus gave to the Apostle John while he was in exile on the island of Patmos about 90 AD. The visions reveal the truth of Acts 14:22: "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." The visions also assure us that Jesus is and will be victorious, and that through faith in him, we too are and will be victorious. Revelation 7 contains two visions of victory.
  
3. **Read Revelation 7:1-8 – The Church Safe Here on Earth**
  - a. **The Mark - Read Ezekiel 9:1-6.** Ezekiel, who is in exile in Babylon, sees a vision of the believers in Jerusalem being marked on their foreheads before the judgment came on the unbelievers in Jerusalem. The people in Jerusalem at the time did not see any marks on the forehead... it was a vision of this spiritual truth: "The Lord knows those who are his and will save them from the coming judgment." The same is true in John's vision. He sees a spiritual truth. The Lord knows those who are his right now and will save them from the coming judgment. By faith, we can see ourselves in this vision, each with the mark on our foreheads. This is not a prophecy about what will happen in the future, but a picture of a current spiritual reality. Discuss this concept as a group.
  - b. **The 144,000** - As you read Revelation, it becomes clear that numbers are associated with ideas. The number "12" always relates to the Church (12 apostles, 12 Old Testament tribes of Israel). The number "10" relates to the idea of completeness or perfection.  $144,000 = 12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$  – a perfect number to symbolize all of the people in God's Church here on earth. Discuss this as a group.
  
4. **Read Revelation 7:9-17 – The Church Safe in Heaven**
  - a. Note that the saints in heaven have come out of the "great tribulation." In this world we will have trouble, but here we see our final victory.
  - b. In vv. 15-17 there are a number of ways that eternal life is described. Which one gives you the greatest comfort right now?
  
5. **Concluding Discussion:** Godly mothers very often are concerned for their children. How can these visions of the Church safe on earth and the Church safe in heaven provide comfort for us as we pray for our children... children by birth and children related to us by a common faith in Jesus?



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

*Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.*

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## **THE SHEPHERD LEADS US TO SAFETY** **JOHN 10:27-30**

### **1. The voice – “My sheep listen to my voice.”**

- a. “The way you talk to a child becomes their inner voice.”
- b. “I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more” (Jeremiah 31:34).

### **2. The mark – “I know them.”**

- a. The need to be seen
- b. “I will be their God, and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33).

### **3. The path – “They follow me.”**

- a. “For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction” (Psalm 1:6).
- b. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Acknowledge the LORD,’ because they will all acknowledge me, from the least of them to the greatest” (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

### **4. The hand – “No one can snatch them out of my hand.”**

- a. “If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” (1 Corinthians 10:12)
- b. “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

### **My Next Step**

#### **Use Luther’s Christian Questions to Prepare for the Lord’s Supper**

Copies of all 20 questions are available at the Welcome Center.

#### **Question 20: What should you do if you ... have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?**

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.