



LEADER'S NOTES

Following Jesus

John 10:27

1. The first question presents a powerful metaphor for following Jesus that we find in John 10. In this metaphor, we understand that Jesus is the good Shepherd and that we are His sheep. The question includes a quote from Phillip Keller, who wrote a book about a shepherd's reflection on Psalm 23. This question introduces the idea that Jesus is the good Shepherd, and we are to follow Him. The most important thing about this question is to get your group members thinking in terms of shepherds and sheep; you don't need to spend too much time on this introductory question.

2. The next three questions come from **John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** I believe this verse helps us understand what it means to follow Jesus. Question two deals specifically with the idea that the sheep know the shepherd's voice. The question then goes on to talk about how those who are following Jesus need to learn to clearly discern His voice. The question does encourage your group members to share their own experiences with being led by Jesus. It also asks the question how do you know it is His voice? Some answers might include, "we know that His voice will never contradict His word," or "when I perceive that Jesus is speaking to me, I also experience His peace." Because this is a bit mystical, some in your group might suggest they know it's His voice, but they can't explain how they know it. If you receive that answer, you might push them to go a bit deeper. As a leader, you may want to encourage your group members that when they are unsure if they are hearing from Christ that seeking godly counsel is always a good idea.

3. The third question presents the idea that those who follow Jesus know Him and He knows them. The question also presents some additional scriptures that reinforce the importance of knowing Jesus. The question initially asks your group members to describe what it means to know God, and if they confidently know that they know Him. I would encourage you to have each group member answer that question just to ensure that all those in your group are in a relationship with Christ. Eventually, the question talks about God's love and asks your group members to describe a time when they experienced that love.

4. The fourth and final question reminds us that His sheep follow Jesus. I included a verse from Revelation 7 that Jesus leads us to springs of living water. You may want to include some thoughts from Psalm 23 with this question. Remembering that the good Shepherd restores our soul. This would also give you the opportunity to talk about the necessity of being replenished and restored through your faith in Christ. The question ends with an open-ended question asking how God is leading your group members right now in this season of their lives. You might best approach this part of the question by sharing how you feel God is leading you, and then letting them openly discuss how they personally feel God is leading them right now.