

NAMES OF GOD

HOW BOASTING IN GOD'S NAME TRANSFORMS YOUR SOUL

Week 10: November 8-14

Welcome / Introduce Guests / Share Life

Recall the Guidelines / Open in Prayer

Share the Vision: At Western Hills, we define a disciple maker according to Matthew 4:19 which says, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Let's model our lives after this definition given to us in Scripture today.

Hook Question: When was a time you thought someone gave you good advice, but it turned out not to be?

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Did you know that sheep do not respond to people who are not their shepherd? Sheep know who their shepherd is by how he enters the fold and by his voice. Sheep are often kept in a safe, fenced in area with a gate for them to go in and out. One way they recognize their shepherd is by how he enters the pen. If someone or something enters by another way, they know it is a threat.

Sheep are also trained to recognize their shepherd's voice. Sheep do not respond to other shepherds' voices. This was particularly important for shepherds in Israel. Many shepherds would bring their flocks to one pasture. As a result, the flocks would intermingle. But when it was time to go home, each shepherd would call for his sheep and they would naturally divide into their flocks again. (For an example of a flock responding to their shepherd watch "Do Sheep only obey their Master's voice?" on YouTube)

In today's story, Jesus claims to be The Good Shepherd. To many people, this was comforting. But to the Pharisees it was a threat to their teaching and blasphemy against God. When the Pharisees heard Jesus call Himself the Good Shepherd, it infuriated them. Jesus had just told them that they were blind to the truth and now he was calling Himself God. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 10:1-21: Remember to change up the storyteller often.
Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.
Read the story from John 10:1-21: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

- What sticks out to you the most about this story?
- What does this story teach us about ourselves?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- How do you need to apply this story to your life this week?
- Who could retell the story for us? **CHALLENGE:** Tell the story to someone this week!
 - *Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.*