

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Bread of Life**

John 6:35

**APPLY // JOHN 8:12****Main Idea:** Jesus is the Light of the World.

1. Read John 1:1-9; 8:12.
2. How does Jesus expose or help us see God? Give some examples from the life of Christ.
3. Ephesians 6:12 says that we live in “this present darkness.” In what way is our city “dark”? How and why?
4. In what way is Restoration Church being “light” to our “darkened” city? What are some ways we could be more light? Pray for these things.

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // JOHN 10:1-18****Main Idea:** Jesus is the Good Shepherd.**Note on Advent:**

Advent, which is derived from the Latin word “adventus,” means coming. For the Christian Church, Advent is the season marked by waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth in history (his first coming) and the anticipation of Christ’s triumphant return (his second coming). This is the time of year set aside to think about the coming of God’s Son to earth. As we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

1. Read John 10:1-18.
2. Here we find two more of the seven “I AM” statements in John: “I am the door” and “I am the good shepherd.” We’ll focus on the latter.
3. Considering the Old Testament, how does the shepherd motif display who God is?
  - a. Consider passages like Psalm 23; 100; Isaiah 40:10-11; Ezekiel 34:11-16.
4. Notice that Jesus doesn’t just say he is a shepherd, but “the good shepherd.”
  - a. What’s the significance of the definite article, “the”?
  - b. When Jesus says he is the “good” shepherd, what does he have in mind?
  - c. What from the text reveals what a bad shepherd is like? Discuss how Jesus is the opposite of a hired hand.
5. Identify and discuss what the Good Shepherd does for his sheep.
  - a. He “calls his own sheep by name.”
  - b. He “leads them.”
  - c. He “goes before them.”
6. In verse 14, Jesus says that he “knows” his sheep, and they know him, “just as” he and the Father know each other. What type of knowledge does Jesus have in view? How is this knowledge more than intellectual awareness?
7. Identify the places Jesus references laying down his life. Why the repetition?
8. Re-read verses 17-18. What do these verses tell us about Jesus? About the Father? About the good news of the gospel?
9. Read Revelation 7:17. How does this picture of heaven shape our understanding of what it means for Jesus to be the Good Shepherd?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** In all your joys and sorrows, how might you look to Jesus to shepherd you this holiday season?