

# BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 18, 2004

Passage: John 10:22-42

*Verses to Memorize: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21*

## Day 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

## READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on John 10:22-26. What question do the Jews ask Jesus? What do you think prompted this question?
2. How does Jesus respond to their inquiry? When, and how, had He revealed His true identity to them (consider John 5:17; 6:35; 7:29, 37-38; 8:12, 42; 9:5; 10:7, 11)? In addition to His claims about His identity, what else does Jesus point to as evidence that He was Messiah (consider John 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-16; 6:1-14, 15-21; 9:1-41)?
3. Despite His clear claims to deity and the confirming evidence of His miraculous works, these Jews still do not believe in Jesus. What reason does Jesus offer for their unbelief?
4. What does this tell us about the true nature of salvation – is it brought about merely upon the basis of intellectual conviction of the facts about Jesus? Explain your answer. Thinking about it from the other direction, what does this tell us about the state of the lost – are they able to believe if they are only provided enough proof to back up the claims of Christ?
5. With respect to salvation, what are the implications of Jesus' words to these Jews? Who must act in order for a person to be brought to faith in Christ (consider John 6:44, 65)? Do you find this encouraging or discouraging as it relates to evangelism? Why?

## Day 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

## READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on John 10:27-30. In contrast to the Jews – whom Jesus declares not to be His sheep – what two traits does Jesus indicate identify His true sheep?
2. How does a genuine Christian “hear” Jesus' voice and “follow” Him in today's world (consider John 14:15)? How does the church facilitate both of these aspects of the Christian life?
3. Again, how does this impact your understanding of your responsibility in evangelism? Have you failed at evangelism if you are unable to “convert” an individual to Christianity? Why, or why not. How can you offer Jesus' “voice” to unbelievers (consider Romans 10:13-17)?
4. What does the Shepherd provide for the sheep? How has Jesus already described the quality of the life He provides (consider John 10:10)? And how does Jesus describe the quantity of this life in verse 28?
5. What other assurance does Jesus provide His sheep? On what basis is He able to provide such assurance (consider vv 29-30)? What does this tell us about the possibility of a true believer losing His salvation?

## Day 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

## READ THE PASSAGE

1. Focus on John 10:31-33. How did the Jews respond to these words from Jesus? How does this confirm Jesus' assessment of them in verse 26 (consider John 8:37, 40, 42-44)?
2. What reason do they offer for their attempt to kill Jesus? In their minds, how had Jesus' been blasphemous? What is so ironic about this response in light of the question these same Jews asked Jesus in verse 25?
3. In the end, what effect does more evidence of Jesus' deity have on the unbelieving? The more a person rejects Christ, what is he actually doing to his heart (consider Romans 2:5)? What warning ought we to give to such people (consider Ezekiel 2:4-7; Acts 17:30-31)?

4. When we faithfully proclaim the truth of salvation to the world around us, what kind of response can we expect (consider John 15:18-21)? But what encouraging promise does Jesus provide us if we are faithful in this ministry (Matthew 28:20)?

**Day 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

1. Focus on John 10:34-39. Jesus quotes a portion of Psalm 82:6, where God refers to some human judges as “gods” and “sons of the Most High”. With that in mind, what is Jesus’ line of defense against the Jews’ attempt to assassinate Him on the charge of blasphemy?
2. If God refers to mere men as “gods”, can there really be anything wrong with Jesus’ assertion that He is “the Son of God” (v. 36)?
3. The Jews’ had already admitted that there was nothing in Jesus’ works that merited their actions against Him, and He argues that there is nothing *biblically* wrong with His words. So if both His works and His words are vindicated, then what basis do these Jews have for their actions? And yet how do they continually react to Jesus’ words (consider John 5:18; 7:30, 32; 8:37, 40, 59; 10:31, 39)? Why do these Jews continue to behave in this way toward Jesus (consider John 8:41, 44)?
4. What final gracious appeal does Jesus make to those who seem bent on His destruction? In what way is Jesus’ example instructive in our efforts to evangelize the (sometimes hostile) unbelieving (consider 1 Peter 3:15)?

**DAY 5– ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

1. Focus on John 10:40-42. With what encouraging note does John end his retelling of this hostile encounter between Jesus and the Jews?
2. How does this fit with Jesus’ words from earlier in John 10 (see vv. 3-5, 16, 27; consider also Acts 17:34)?
3. Why should Christians find this so encouraging? If we faithfully proclaim the “voice” of Jesus, what can we expect to happen?
4. It’s been said that Calvinism’s focus on the sovereignty of God in salvation discourages Christians from evangelism. Do you agree with that assessment? How does this passage inform your answer?

**Sunday, January 18, 2004**

**SERMON NOTES**

**Text: John 10:22-42**