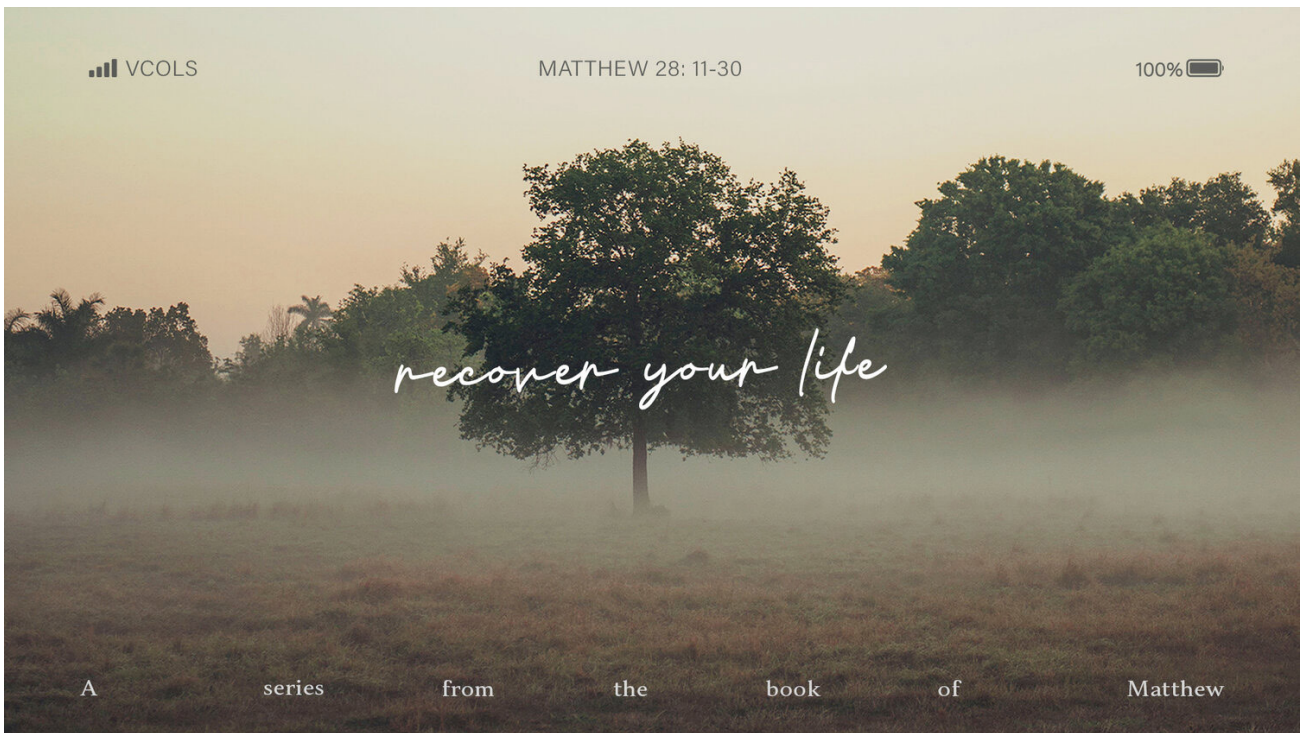


SERMON SERIES COMPANION STUDIES
FOR SMALL GROUPS



STUDY 3

Guidance

SERMON TEXT: JOHN 10:1-5; JOHN 16:12-15

Getting Started

If you haven't done so already, share this PDF, or the link to this study, with other members of your group.

After greeting one another, take a minute or two of silence together and offer an opening prayer. If you don't all know one another already, invite each group member to share their name.

Opening Question

Share about a time you got lost. How did you find your way?

Purpose of This Week's Study

This week, we're looking at two verses in John about guidance. We'll explore two different ways Jesus explains how he will guide our lives so we can follow him.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS WEEK'S STUDY

We're going to look at a parable Jesus told about the good shepherd and another short passage about the Holy Spirit. In both passages, Jesus communicates that we can trust guidance that comes from God, through the Holy Spirit. When we are in relationship with Jesus, he is familiar, trusted and known by us and we can follow him.

Scripture Reading

Read John 10:1-5 and do questions 1-4. Then read John 16:12-15 and do questions 5-8.

JOHN 10:1-5 (NIV)

¹⁰ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

JOHN 16:12-15 (NIV)

¹² “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

For Reflection & Discussion

1. In the John 10 passage, the sheep know their shepherd’s voice. When we think of ourselves as the sheep and Jesus as our shepherd, how well do we know our Shepherd’s voice?
2. Pastors and leaders in the church can also be seen as shepherds. What are ways that they can gather their sheep together? What may cause the sheep to scatter?
3. In John 10:4, the shepherd “goes on ahead of them.” What picture does that bring to mind?
4. In this passage there is an emphasis on the shepherd’s job of guiding and leading, but the sheep also have a responsibility of discerning who to follow. How do you discern what voices to listen to?
5. In John 16:13, it says that the Holy Spirit will “guide you into all the truth.” What do you think that means? (He will guide us into understanding Jesus more.)
6. John calls the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth.” Why do you think he does that?
7. How would you describe the Holy Spirit’s ministry based on these verses in your own words?
8. How do you sense the work of the Holy Spirit in your life today?

For Prayer Ministry

Divide into pairs and pray for one another that you will be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your life this week. Then pray for any needs in the group.

For Further Reflection & Action Outside of Group

Read all of John 16 this week. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth.