

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Winter 2026:
week 1

Welcome to Week 1 of Winter Small Groups! This week's questions will focus on two themes: your experience so far with 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, and this past weekend's sermon from John 10:11–18 on Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

As a group, please don't feel any pressure to get through both topics. If you do, that's great — but it might be more helpful to focus on just one. The real goal is not to “finish the homework,” but to create space for honest, meaningful conversation. Healthy groups aren't measured by how many questions get completed, but by how many people participate.

I'm so glad you've decided to participate in Small Groups this year! Let's lean in, listen well, and enjoy what God has for us in this Winter Session.

Pastor Steve Osborne

Getting To Know You

Ice-breakers are designed to establish common ground, help you get to know other people and share a little bit about your life.

1. It's been a while since your group has met. Spend some time catching up and sharing highlights from Christmas and New Year's. *Two Truths and a Lie* is a fun game to play when talking about what everyone did over the Small Group break.

2. If you've participated in a fast of any kind before, what was your experience like? If you have not, what thoughts and emotions come to mind when you think about fasting?

3. If you've been participating in 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, what has been one of the more surprising things you've learned about yourself and/or God?

Digging Deeper

These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the sermon topic, relevant scriptures, and provide deeper opportunities for reflection.

1. Read John 15:1–8. According to Jesus, what does it mean to *abide* (or *remain*) in Him?

What happens when we try to bear fruit apart from Jesus?

In what areas of life do you personally notice yourself trying to “produce” without “abiding”?

2. A big part of fasting is not trying to earn points with God, but making room to hear God and surrender our will. With that in mind, how does fasting help us notice what we rely on other than Jesus?

What are some common substitutes we turn to instead of abiding?

3. When 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is over, what do you intend to bring with you into the rest of the year from this experience?

Switching gears, let's focus on this weekend's sermon from **John 10:11-18.**

4. Read John 10:11-18. Jesus doesn't just say He's a shepherd — He says He is the Good Shepherd. What stands out to you about that title?

What differences do you see between a hired hand and the Good Shepherd (vv. 12-13)?

5. Read John 10:14-15 again. Jesus is saying He knows us, and we know Him, in the same way He knows the Father and the Father knows Him. That's an incredible truth!

How would you describe to someone who doesn't believe in God what it means to *know* Jesus?

In what ways is your relationship with Jesus growing?

What about Jesus would you like to know more deeply?

6. Read Hebrews 13:20–21. What does the resurrection tell us about Jesus' ongoing shepherding, not just His sacrifice?

How is Jesus shepherding you right now (guiding, equipping, protecting, comforting, correcting)?

Application

The goal is life transformation, not simple discussion. Application is how we live differently because of this week's teachings and discussions.

1. Take some time to reflect and pray. What do you sense God is wanting to do in and through you as it relates to this small group?

Prayer Requests

Take time to record prayer requests here. Confidentiality is an important part of a healthy small group.