



Life Group Study Notes – 13 September 2026

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Following the Good Shepherd – John chapter 10:1-21

Matthew Henry, a well-known theologian, teaches that John 10 reveals Jesus as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep personally, calls them by name, and gathers them safely into His fold. In this passage, the sheep pen represents the security, order, and privilege of belonging to Christ and being under the care of His church. He emphasises that Christ gathers His people so they may be fed, guided, and protected under His care. Yet the Shepherd does not keep His flock shut in; He leads them out because His voice is trustworthy and His guidance is perfect. Wherever He goes, the sheep may follow without fear, for He goes before them, making the way safe. The Christian life is not shaped by self-directed wandering **but by** hearing, trusting, and following the Shepherd. Our safety is in staying near Him; our obedience and witness flow from walking in the path He sets before us.

Look Back – Remembering Christ's Leading

- Jesus leading you out — Think of a moment when Jesus nudged you out of comfort and into obedience. What did that experience show you about His care as the Good Shepherd?
- Staying in the pen — Can you recall a time when you sensed Jesus calling you forward but chose to stay where it felt safe? How might your faith have grown if you had followed?

Look Within – Hearing and Responding to His Voice

- Comfort zones — What parts of your faith feel familiar and secure, yet may be holding you back from following Jesus more fully?
- Current calling — Where do you sense Jesus calling you to obey Him right now, even if it means stepping into unfamiliar territory?

Look Around – Seeing the Flock Move Together

- Church discernment — How is our church helping people recognise the Shepherd's voice and follow Him into the paddock of obedience and mission?
- Examples of faith — Who in our church have you seen stepping out in faith recently, and what does their example teach you about following Jesus?

Look Forward – Following the Shepherd This Week

- One step of obedience — What is one specific step of obedience or mission you can take this week to follow Jesus out of the pen?
- A person to serve — Who is one person Jesus may be calling you to speak to, serve, or encourage this week?