

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions for March 14, 2018
John 9-10 ~ Gretchen Steer

1. We've encountered several miraculous healings so far in John. If Jesus was standing before you now, what would you ask him to heal you of? Would he identify something different in you that needed to be healed, physically or spiritually?

2. In this gospel Jesus has shown power over nature (feeding the 5,000 and walking on water; a large catch of fish and water turned into wine) and power over sickness (healing the official's son, the paralyzed man and the blind man). In chapter 11 he will demonstrate power over death. How do these miracles show that Jesus is God, and that he is Lord over all creation? Where in your life do you need that kind of resurrection power?

3. Jesus said "I am the gate" (in some translations, "I am the door"). Look at John 10:7-10. What does that mean, and why is it important for us to understand that concept in our day to day lives?

4. Read Psalm 23. Now read John 10:11-16. If Jesus truly is our Good Shepherd, how does that affect our lives in terms of anxiety, fear of the present or future, or fear of death? Name some of your worst fears. How does Jesus promise to take care of these?

5. Jesus made it clear that those who truly heard his voice would recognize him as their Good Shepherd, and follow him willingly. How can we help ensure that others come into contact with Jesus' words and voice? If you are a parent or grandparent, how can you help this process along in your children or grandchildren's lives? How about for your co-workers? Neighbors?

6. Read John 10:28-30. If you or someone you love struggles with doubt, how can these truths help?

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Key verse: "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

1. Start by reflecting on the miracles so far in John's gospel – water into wine, the large catch of fish from John 2; the healing of the official's son in John 4; the paralyzed man in John 5; walking on water and feeding 5,000 in John 6. How does each miracle reflect Jesus' power over all creation? Now think about the man born blind and read John 9:32-33; John 9:39 and 41. How was healing from physical blindness symbolic of Jesus' true desire for all mankind?

2. The blind man's parents seemed to just about disown him when the Pharisees came to them (John 10:18-23). What were they frightened of? Why was acceptance and membership at the synagogue so very important to Jews?

3. Jesus talks about the role of the good shepherd a great deal in chapter 10. This was a metaphor from the Old Testament. Look up Isaiah 40:10-11, Isaiah 56:9-12, Ezekiel 34:1-10. Who were the shepherds under the old covenant and what had they done? Is there any equivalent today in the church?

4. What are the characteristics of the hired hand? What are the characteristics of the good shepherd? How can Jesus be both "the door" or "the gate" and the good shepherd?

5. Jesus makes some astounding statements about his relationship to the Father in this chapter. Look up John 10:28-30 and John 10:36-38. How can we know what Jesus is saying is true? And why did this sound like blasphemy to those who had hardened their hearts?

6. If we understand that Jesus truly is our Good Shepherd, and will protect and keep us throughout our lifetime, how does that change the way we live and think about today? Our fears about tomorrow? Read through Psalm 23 in light of Jesus being our Good Shepherd. Bring to Jesus the things you fear and fret about, both now and in the future, and pray through them one by one. End by reading John 10:29 out loud and substitute your own name for the word "them".