



**Week Six Study Guide – October 18**  
**The Jesus Way: Attentiveness**  
**John 10:1-10**

Opening Questions:

- What are some things in your life that you know tend to distract you?
- In what circumstances do you find it easiest to pay attention?

Read aloud this introduction:

Paying attention is critical. One moment of distraction while driving a car can lead to an accident. Teachers know that the key to learning is paying attention. Athletes understand that one has to be aware of playing conditions, what one's competitors are doing and what we ourselves are doing every moment, always anticipating what's coming next. Musicians are focused on what they are doing and also on what is being asked by a conductor or by the notes on a page. In board meetings, offices, conversations and times of worship, we are at our best when we pay attention.

In this study series, we have defined the Christian life as *being on the way of Jesus increasingly in the ways of Jesus*. We've discovered that getting onto the path or way of Jesus is a matter of surrender. We accept being found by Jesus who seeks us out, lifts us up in love and places us on his path. This way is a journey of a lifetime, a path that provides plenty of opportunity for us as apprentices to live more and more like Jesus. That's our purpose every day. Resting in God who is in control, we fully adopt what Jesus our rabbi says and live as he lives. Jesus describes this life as a fruitful one as we grow to be more and more like him. This way of life is all about relationship with God and with one another. Every relationship matters. We now add another element to our examination of the Jesus way life.

Invite someone in the group to read John 10:1-10 aloud.

Pray this prayer (one person or the whole group together):

Lord, as we come together to study your Word, we bring all of who we are with our needs, our hopes, and our expectations. Meet us here in the power and presence of your Holy Spirit. Give us insight and understanding as we listen carefully for your voice. And then give us courage and conviction to align our lives with the way of Jesus. We pray in his name. Amen.

### Questions for Exploration:

- What stands out to you in this metaphor Jesus uses? What grabbed your attention?
- Identify the different characters mentioned.
- What does the shepherd do with and for the sheep?
- What do you notice about the sheep who follow the shepherd? What do they do?
- What is the central point of Jesus' message?

### Paying Attention (have someone in the group read aloud)

Rob Loane and the late Randy Reese, authors of *The Journey*, a process of spiritual formation, pinpoint some practical encouragements related to this idea of attentiveness. Their suggestions help us tune in to what God is showing us. We are increasingly attentive when we:

- Pay attention along our whole life journey.
- Pay attention to the ways the Scriptures closely connect with our life.
- Pay attention to the ways God has shaped and shown up in our life.
- Pay attention to our talents and gifts, concerns and convictions.
- Pay attention to God's tugging on our heart.
- Pay attention to where our deep gladness and the world's deep need intersect.
- Pay attention with others on the way.



### Questions for Pressing it Out:

- What does this Scripture passage reveal about who God is?

- What does it reveal about God's priorities?
- What does this passage tell us about who we are?
- How does it inform us about our own priorities in living out the way of Jesus?
- What does God want us to do?
- Where in your life are you being encouraged to pay greater attention to God's activity?
- What steps might you want to take to reduce distractions and sharpen your focus?

Closing Prayer:

Depending on the needs/desires of your group here are some options:

- Ask one or two group members to close the group in prayer
- Pray the Lord's prayer together aloud:  
"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."