

Discussion Guide | John 10:22-42

Gathering Question:

What is one way you've experienced God in your life this week?

Gathering Prayer

Father, by Your Spirit, would You guide us into all truth. Help us to hear and be attentive to Your voice as we work through this study. In the name of Jesus, Your Son, we pray, Amen.

Opening Questions

- What stood out to you in the sermon?
- What insights did you gain?
- What questions did it raise?

Read John 10:22-42

- John 10 takes place during the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah) — a holiday celebrating Judas Maccabeus' ("The Hammer") military victory and the purification of the Temple. Why do you think John emphasizes this setting for Jesus' teaching on eternal security? What might the people have expected a new "Messiah" to be like during Hanukkah?
- Judas Maccabeus used force to drive out Israel's enemies. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. How do these two leaders represent opposite understandings of power? Which kind of power feels more natural or appealing in our world today—and why?
- Judas "The Hammer" offers worldly security; Jesus the Good Shepherd offers eternal security. What are some examples of the kind of *worldly security* people seek today—and why do those often feel more tangible or reliable than what Jesus offers? How does trusting in *eternal security* through Jesus change the way we handle fear, control, or uncertainty in everyday life?

Read Romans 8:31-39

- Romans 8:38-39 assures us that nothing can separate us from God's love. How does this promise of eternal security give you confidence and hope in the middle of suffering?
- Paul experienced hardship, persecution, and loss, yet he writes about God's unshakable love. How does his example show that being secure in Christ doesn't prevent suffering, but provides strength and assurance through it?

Why We Suffer: Our Own Bad Decisions

- Can you think of a time when God used consequences to bring you back to Him?
- How does being "secure in Christ" give you courage to repent and return?

Why We Suffer: None of Our Decisions

- What helps you stay grounded in God's love when life makes no sense?
- How can the group support one another in seasons like that?

Why We Suffer: Our Own Good Decisions

- What forms of “suffering” or discomfort come with following Jesus today?
- What might it look like for you to embrace that discomfort as part of trusting Him?

Closing Prayer