

John 10:22-28 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To help us understand how to have faith and how to grow faith.

Sermon Refresher: In John 10:22-28, Jesus talks about why it is that some have faith and others don't. Ultimately it comes down to whether we are God's sheep or not. Jesus also talked about why some have more faith and others have more doubt.

Discussion

1. When we first read this passage, we are struck by Jesus' response to the Jews. How are Jesus' words different than you might expect?
2. Now look at verses 31-33. How do these verses help us understand why Jesus responded the way he did?
3. Read John 10:3-4 and John 10:16, 26 again. What do these verses teach us about the ultimate cause of our salvation? How should we respond?
4. Some may say, "well, if someone is not a part of God's flock, there's nothing they can do about that. It's not their fault. God is not just if he holds them accountable for something they can't change." How would you respond to that?
5. Even as we acknowledge God's sovereignty over our salvation, that does not mean that we have no responsibility. Read vv. 25, 27. What is the human responsibility for salvation?
6. According to Jesus' words in v. 25, how do we grow in our faith?
7. What are some of the miracles of Jesus that you can recall? Which one impresses you most? What do those miracles teach us about Jesus?
8. According to Jesus' words in v. 27, how do we grow in our faith?
9. When we read the Bible, we need to remember that this is Jesus speaking to us. How does remembering that the words of the Bible are actually "his voice" speaking to you change the way you think about reading your Bible?

John 5:1–18 Sermon-Based Discussion

10. According to the last part of Jesus's words in v. 27, how do we grow in our faith?

This passage teaches us that we have assurance of our salvation based on 2 things: 1) evidence of trust and obedience in our life, and 2) the promises of God. V. 27 focused on that first basis: evidence of trust and obedience in our life.

11. Following Jesus means hearing his words and then responding in trust and obedience.

Can you think of a recent time when you read something in the Bible and then responded in a practical act of obedience? How did that affect your faith?

Digging deeper (optional): Read Deut 6:1-7 out loud noticing the use of the word “hear” in the text. This is a famous Old Testament passage and vv. 4-5 are called the “Shemah.” Israelites considered the Shemah so important that they would memorize it and frequently quote it from memory. “Shemah” means “to hear” in Hebrew. How does this passage teach us that “to hear” God means more than just listening?

12. V. 28 talks about the second basis of our assurance: the promises of God. Let's read v. 28 again. How does this promise give us assurance of our salvation?

Sharing and Prayer Time idea:

Now that many of our new year's resolutions are starting to wear off, maybe it's a good time to ask ourselves, am I making time to listen to his voice? Am I reading the Bible consistently so my faith can grow? If not, why?

For our sharing and prayer time, let's do this: let's go around and share about two things: 1) How is reading your Bible going? 2) What changes would you need to make to prioritize it?

Passage for next Sunday

John 12:20-33