



FAMILY OF CHAMPIONS
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

WINNING, TRAINING & SENDING - TESTIFYING TO THE EXTRAVAGANT GRACE OF GOD

House Fellowship BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

FOLLOWING JESUS
WHY SUBMIT TO JESUS AS YOUR LIFE COACH?

BY PASTOR ELLIOT LAMPTEY

INTRODUCTION

The book of John is a very interesting book and this chapter is the most important because it separates Christianity from all other religions. It highlights Jesus as our shepherd and coach.

Comparing the artistry industry (artisanal, football, basketball, musicians, actors and many more) to the scientific industry, we come to a conclusion that those in the artistry industry are more successful than the others. This is because they have a coach, a mentor who is guiding, teaching, training and leading them.

- ✓ *Who is a coach?*
- ✓ *Do you have a life coach?*



Key Scripture:
John 10:1-20

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.** **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”**6** Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate for the sheep.** **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture.** **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13** The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17** The reason my Father loves me is that **I lay down my life—only to take it up again.** **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. **I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.** This command I received from my Father.”

19 The Jews who heard these words were again divided.**20** Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

This was the conversation that Jesus was having with the pharisees after healing the blind man in John 9:35. There is a man who had been healed from his spiritual blindness because he could not see Jesus.

The first thing that Jesus says is that He is the gate by which you walk into, and if you come in through Him, you will be saved, have pasture and security. God in the verse 10 is here to give life in abundance.

The second thing He does is to describe Himself as the shepherd. It makes sense because in the olden days, when a sheep is sleeping, the shepherd is the gate, he sleeps at the door so that the sheep does not go out or a wolf does not come in and attack the sheep.

- ✓ *According to the passage, who is a shepherd?*
- ✓ *Who is a good shepherd?*

The good shepherd lays down His life for others. He is a good shepherd.

He knows His sheep and they know Him. This was what Jesus says in the last day, about those who will be with Him. This is what separates from others. We have the privilege of knowing Jesus and He too knowing us. It is not only about going to church or knowing important people, but rather that at the end of time, this verse will matter the most to you for it will determine your end.

- ✓ *Are you sure Jesus knows you?*
- ✓ *Are you sure that at the last day, Jesus will proudly say “This one is my sheep, I know him/her”?*

Jesus lays down His life, only to take it up again, He does it out of choice. We as human cannot attain life, abandon it and decide to take it up again.

- ✓ *If you have your degree and are told to leave and then start all over again to get it. Would you do it?*
- ✓ *Have you heard of anyone who has laid down his life and picks it up himself at his choice?*

We have watched movies of people who are shot with thousands of bullets but do not die, these are all fictional. But there is a man who claims His life back by choice!

This man is asking to be the coach of your life.

- ✓ *Would love to have a coach as such?*

*³² It is God who arms me with strength
and keeps my way secure.
³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he causes me to stand on the heights.
³⁴ He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
³⁵ You make your saving help my shield,
and your right hand sustains me;
your help has made me great.
³⁶ You provide a broad path for my feet,
so that my ankles do not give way.*

Psalm 18:32-36

✓ *What does God do for us according to the passage?*

He makes our feet stable like the deer. He trains, teaches, saves and provides just as a coach should.

David had a coach and He was God, for us today Jesus is our life coach, but we have to allow Him to take this place in our lives. We came to a conclusion that there are many things that we cannot do on our own. You cannot marry yourself. Each part of your life needs a life coach.

✓ *Do you think you need a coach or you are capable on your own?*

Look at David who had God as his coach, could you stand against him?

WHY TO ALLOW JESUS TO BE THE LIFE COACH

1. He knows us more than anybody

Vs 3.

He knows us more than we know ourselves and He wants to have a relationship, and to fellowship with Him. We often say, "I'll ask my mom or my best friend, she knows me best". But there is someone who knows far more than anybody else. So, if you are to seek consultation, why not ask He who knows you and knows what is best for you?

✓ *Do you believe He knows you way better than anyone?*

✓ *Is He the one you seek advice from?*

*¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.*

*See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.*

*¹¹ **He tends his flock like a shepherd:***

*He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.*

Isaiah 40:10-11

He knows each of us and what we need in every moment. He knows those who are young, the feeble, those that He needs to be gentle with.

- ✓ *Has the Lord ever come through for you simply because He knows what you need at that specific point in time?*

The shepherd knows His sheep!

*⁵ “**Before I formed you in the womb I knew^{ed} you,**
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

Jeremiah 1:5

God told Jeremiah that He knew him even before he was born. It is also the case for you and I, He knew us way before we were an idea in the minds of our parents. You and God go all the way back.

- ✓ *Who formed you?*

When my wife and I were expecting our first son, we came to understand this verse in a concrete way. We were told at the hospital that the child we were expecting was a girl, but the Lord had revealed to me in a vision that it was a boy. After the first scan, we were told it was a girl, following this, many people brought gifts suitable for a little girl, all they brought was pink. Every scan we took showed that it was a girl, but I was confident that it was a boy because the Lord had revealed it to me. It was during the last scan that my wife told me that it was found to be a boy not so long from delivery. The is just to highlight that Lord knew my son even before my wife and I did. It because He knew him, that He revealed him to me in a vision.

God knows where the truth is. He knows you and all the scars that you hide from everybody else.

✓ *Why not trust this man?*

2. He wants to guide you

He calls His sheep by name and calls the out. God wants to lead and guide your life. Imagine such a person who guides, protects, provides and much more, asking to be your coach, your shepherd, you armor and more.

✓ *Will you let Him be your coach?*

*¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'^[b]
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'^[c]*

Revelation 7:17

Even in heaven God will be our shepherd and lead us to fountains of water. Allow Jesus to lead you.

3. He can make something good out of you

Jesus can do mighty things in anyone, broken lives are made new, Pauls are being made form murderers, He turns beauty from ashes.

✓ *How has the Lord changed your life? How has He made your life beautiful?*

He can make you into something you never imagined you could become.

4. He eternally saves

Vs. 9 -10

He saves forever, even death cannot kill you. You are safe with Him. There are workplaces that do not care about your health that even if you get injured whilst working, they will not take care of you. But God in interested in you, He wants to protect you. Many people want you but it is not for you. Jesus wants all of you.

Jesus says anyone who comes through me will be saved, they will be eternally safe and secure from all dangers. If you come through Him, you are safe in Him even in the hardest of times. Jesus came that we may have life and abundance.

It is not always when you have abundance that you're safe. Imagine a zebra trying to drink water from a lake, not knowing that there is a crocodile ready to squander it. There is pasture but no safety. It is very difficult to have the two.

It is hard to find both abundance and honor. If God should reveal how people have the abundance that they have, we might find that they may have used dubious means to acquire their abundance. But Jesus has promised us honor, safety and abundance.

- ✓ *Do you know that God has promised us abundance?*
- ✓ *Do you want only abundance or pasture or honor?*
- ✓ *Will you wait for Him to give you both or you will use your own means to have them?*

Make a decision now, what do you want?

It is only when you come through Him and Him alone, and He leads you, that you will find all these things.

- ✓ *Have you made this decision for your life?*

Do not follow money nor pleasure. It is not safe for it will leave you empty.

Follow Jesus

CONCLUSION

*³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.*

*⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.*

Micah 5:3-4

God wants to shepherd your life.

⁷ “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:⁸ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock,

¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: **I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.** ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. **I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.** ¹³ **I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land.** I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ **I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.** There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ **I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down,** declares the Sovereign Lord. ¹⁶ **I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.**

²² **I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another.** ²³ **I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.** ²⁴ **I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.**

²⁶ **I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing.**^[a] **I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.**

²⁹ **I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations.** ³⁰ **Then they will know that I, the Lord their God, am with them and that they, the Israelites, are my people,** declares the

Sovereign Lord. ³¹ You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord.'”

Ezekiel 34:7-8 ;11-16; 22-24; 26; 29-31

✓ *What are the things that God promises He will do?*

God Himself will search for them, look after His sheep. He will rescue them deliver them and pasture them, feed them. Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, save them, and place over them one shepherd (Jesus) and He will be our God, He will make us blessings and the things surrounding us will be blessed. And He will make known that He is with us.

This is too sweet; we need God to be our shepherd and coach. Get Him and get all others free, it is a full package, accept Jesus as your shepherd.