



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 1—The God of Life: A Story of God's Redeeming Shalom

Module 4—Coming Alive by Being Human: Jesus Stories on What it Means to Be Human and Fully Alive

Lesson 1—John 10:1-21

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read John 10:1-21 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialog about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY—Jesus is the embodiment of God's life-giving mission, with sacrificial love at the center of God's way of life.

What images come to mind when you hear the phrase "sacrificial love"?

Why is it important to understand sacrificial love to be at the heart of God's mission?

- To know Jesus is to know God. To be in on God's mission of life for the world is to discover the fullness of life in following Jesus through discipleship.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he is the fulfillment of God's promise to restore life to the world.
- God's way of life is sacrificial and the goodness of Jesus as the one who leads us into life consists in his willingness to suffer and die in our place.
- At the core of God's mission is this kind of sacrificial love embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.
- The fullness of love that God intends for us to experience in Jesus Christ is demonstrated in the love of Jesus who willingly gives himself away in order that we might live.

OUR STORY—We know the fullness of life God intends for us in Jesus by living into his way of sacrificial love through discipleship.

How could your life become more sacrificial?

Why do you think being sacrificial might help you hear the voice of Jesus better?

- Through discipleship to Jesus we come to discover our true humanity, which is what it means for us to live into the abundance of life that Jesus talks about in this passage.
- We are invited to live our lives in such a way that we become who God has always intended us to be, full of life in the act of corresponding to Jesus.
- Our life does not get easier as it begins to correspond more and more to Jesus' own sacrificial way of life.
- The security of following Jesus is not that he leads us away from danger, but that we are following him into the way of life even if it means sacrificing ourselves for the sake of others.
- Jesus is inviting us discover the fullness of life by simply, but intentionally, loving and serving others who cannot give us anything in return.

OTHERS' STORY—Jesus is calling others into the fullness of life with him who may not be exactly like us.

What are the ways we can hear Jesus' voice more clearly in the voice of other Christians?

- Many of us think that once we begin to follow Jesus we somehow gain the kind of vantage point Jesus has and we begin to determine for ourselves who is in and who is out, drawing boundaries that allow us to determine who is appropriately a sheep, and who is not.
- Jesus says this, "You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen" (John 10:16, *The Message*).
- Our boundary-making attitude leads us away from others, the very people to whom we are sent to practice Jesus' way of sacrificial love.
- Relationships under the leadership of Jesus meant to restore life and wholeness become petty and divisive as we force others to make a choice, not to follow Jesus but to pick a side. We need to really listen for the voice of Jesus in others.

THE WORLD'S STORY—Jesus ushers us out into the world to bear witness to his way of life.

In what ways can we bear witness to others about the fullness of life that Jesus offers?

- God in Jesus Christ is not gathering us for the safety of remaining cooped up in some pen.
- As followers of Jesus we are being ushered out into the world to discover the fullness of life with Jesus there, as well as to bear witness to the world of the fullness of life that is Jesus Christ.
- The church, that community of Jesus followers brought together to serve others in the way of Jesus through sacrificial love, is to exist out among the world as a witness to God's way of life.
- We are called to exist for the sake of the world, knowing that even if the world comes against us, we are cared for by the one in whom death and destruction have been overcome, the one who is our shepherd, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

From the *Glenstal Book of Prayer*¹:

I shall follow you, O Lord, any place you go, because it is you who have the words of eternal life.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Practicing Sacrificial Love:

This week look for a way to practice sacrificial love by doing something for someone without any strings attached or looking for anything in return. Do not serve them simply so that you can talk about God with them. Simply out of love for them, do something sacrificial. Then reflect on these questions in a journal:

How did you feel? How did it help you experience Jesus, if at all?

What might be different about your life if you practiced this regularly, as a way of life?

How did it help you feel fully alive?

What was really challenging about it?

1. *The Glenstal Book of Prayer* (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2011)

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Passages for further reflection this week:

• *Exodus 3* • *Ezekiel 34* • *John 14* • *1 John 3*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story, and the world's story. In the context of John 10:1-21, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in John 10:1-21?

How do these Scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from John 10:1-21?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages that you might know related to John 10:1-21 and read them this week, journaling as you go.

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