

# Life Application Notes

I – Independent sheep – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Speaker: Si Munsie

## Introduction

On Sunday, Si looked at the I of the acronym of LIFE – independence and also sheep! Si opened with a story about his incredible acting performances as a youngster playing a king and a sheep...what roles did people play in their nativity or school plays? Any funny stories?

## Opening up:

You could play in a family fortunes style or just guess as a group – what are the top 10 most mentioned animals in the bible? 1. Sheep/Lamb/Ram (577) 2. Goat (172) 3. Bull, Bulls (171) 4. Donkey, Donkeys (154) 5. Horse, Horses (166) 6. Lion, Lioness (145) 7. Ox, Oxen (98) 8. Camel (71) 9. Dog (42) 10. Eagle (30)

## Digging in:

Read Psalm 23. This is one of the most popular psalms in the entire book of Psalms and there is enough here to spend a good few weeks. Most of the evening should be spent digging into this psalm and helping people develop their bible reading and asking God to illuminate certain aspects of this passage, before ending prayer based around this theme – really dig in to each part, individual words even. I have given some questions you could explore but you could just read it together and then allow the discussion to flow out of what people feel God saying to them and others through this scripture.

*Have you heard this psalm before? If so, where have you heard it read or preached? a. What are some characteristics of sheep? Do they need a shepherd? What happens to them if they are left alone? b. What are some characteristics of a shepherd? What are shepherds good at? Why are they needed? c. Who is the author of this psalm? What did the author know about being a shepherd? Read 1 Samuel 16:1 & 6-13*

*Who is the Shepherd described in this psalm? What is the name of this Shepherd? Read Exodus 3:13-14. What did Jesus say about himself in John 10:7-11? What does this tell you about Jesus and his desire to lead you? a. What does the Shepherd do for the sheep? b. Have you ever been in want? How does the Shepherd settle you and calm you when you struggle with contentment? c. Have you ever needed rest? What happens when sheep lie down in green pastures? d. Have you ever needed replenishment or restoration? Where does the shepherd lead those who need to be filled? What does the shepherd do for the soul of those who follow? Read Psalm 23:2-3*

## Rounding off

There are times when we are described like sheep but our behaviour is often not like that of sheep who like the feeling of being part of the flock and want to be in the group because it is safe. Whereas, as humans we so often have a desire to rebel and not be part of the group, even if just for a little while to prove that we can! What are the dangers of not being part of the flock, encourage the groups to consider how they can draw in those who maybe aren't part of a life group or don't often come along especially in view of the inherent dangers *1 Peter 5:8b*.

Spend some time in prayer as a group around the themes in Psalm 23 and also for those who you have mentioned; you could pray for those who are 'prodigals' and also those who do not yet know Jesus, that they would come to know him as their good shepherd as we do.