

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of June 7, 2015

John 10:10-18

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

### Common English Bible (CEB)

<sup>10</sup> *The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.*

<sup>11</sup> *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

<sup>12</sup> *When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.*

<sup>14</sup> *“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.*

<sup>17</sup> *“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again.*

<sup>18</sup> *No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”*

**Connection Questions:**

1. In what ways can a mature relationship with God assist us in the various demands we each have placed upon us?
2. List some vital elements that help a person to obtain a deep relationship with God.
3. How can a mature relationship with God simplify our lives?
4. What are factors that lead to our lives becoming out of control or cluttered?
5. Jean Paul Sartre in *Being and Nothingness* writes, "Even when we don't realize we are choosing, we are choosing." Discuss what you think his statement means.

6. How do you believe God is involved in the world? How do you believe God is involved in your life?

7. Read our text for the sermon, John 10:10-18. Then discuss how Jesus' analogy of the Good Shepherd defines the nature of God.

8. How can this description of God's nature help us in our quest to simplify our lives?

9. Taking the needed steps to simplify our lives is hard work. What are some initial steps you could make right now that could help you in simplifying your life?

10. As we end this series on *Simplify – Practices to Unclutter Your Soul*, describe what your life would look like if you were content and at peace with yourself.