

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 18, 2016

This Week's Focus: By his life, sacrificial death, and triumphant resurrection from the grave Jesus secured the faith and eternal life of all those who believe on him.

This Week's Text: John 10:22-31

"If anyone murmur at this, arguing that the cause of unbelief dwells in God, because he alone has power to make sheep; I reply, He is free from all blame, for it is only by their voluntary malice that men reject his grace. God does all that is necessary to induce them to believe, but who shall tame wild beasts? This will never be done, till the Spirit of God change them into sheep. They who are wild will in vain attempt to throw on God the blame of their wildness, for it belongs to their own nature." **John Calvin**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What is the setting of this week's passage? What time of year is it? What is the Feast of Dedication and what does it commemorate?
- What was the Jewish leaders' motivation as they "gathered around" Jesus and demanded he disclose his identity to them? Did they seek for information, true illumination, or for a reason to kill him?
- What are some ways today that people filter Jesus' identity through their own personal interpretation? What is Jesus' true identity, and how does John want us to respond? Reference John 1:1-3, 14-18 and John 20:30-31.
- How did Jesus respond to their question? Is their unbelief a fault in God's revelation or in that they simply refuse to believe?
- What does this passage and the rest of Scripture teach about human responsibility and divine sovereignty in belief? What are the dangers of denying either one?

- What is the one concrete and objective way that we can hear and grow more familiar with the voice of Jesus? Are you accustomed to hearing God's voice daily through Scripture, or do you only seek his voice when you are in need or have a major decision to make?
- What does Jesus say about all those who believe on him? Reference verses 27-28. Can they (his sheep) ever lose their eternal security? On what does our eternal security rest?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?