

Healthy Relationships  
**Wk 1**  
*Your Relationship w/ God*

**Purpose:** Students to see that all healthy relationships begin with a relationship w/ God.

**Passage (s):** Jn. 10:1-18

**Topic:** Relationship between the shepherd and the sheep

*Ricks Devotional:* All students are involved in different relationships, peers, family, significant others, etc. During the month in February we're going to examine how to have healthy relationships, we're starting tonight with our relationship with God. In this passage of John Jesus paints a picture for us of the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep, he gives positive characteristics of both the sheep and the shepherd.

Sheep:

- recognize the voice of the shepherd (they's spent time with Him)
- follow the lead of the shepherd (they trust Him)
- run away for the voice of a/the stranger
  - o (they want nothing to do with another way)

Shepherd:

- Knows the sheep (spent time with them)
- Leads them (has their best interest in mind)
- Lays down his life (lives sacrificially and loves the sheep)

We all would say we'd like to have healthy relationships, but they all have to start with the most important relationship we have, the one with our creator. If this relationship isn't right, then we as sheep will find ourselves not recognizing his voice, unable to trust him, and following every voice we hear. Even though the shepherd knows us, has our best interest in mind, and loves us. We miss all that because we don't recognize the voice of the shepherd. Maybe we never did or may we've gotten lost in the busyness and no longer paying attention. Either way in order for us to move forward in our walk with the Lord and others we need to recognize the voice of the shepherd.

*Small Group:*

Option A

1. Discuss what the "Shepherds" voice may sound like, and what sorts of things he might say.
  - a. Is it a weak or strong voice?
  - b. Is it comforting or degrading?
  - c. What are some keys to recognizing it?
    - i. Does it fall in line with scripture?
    - ii. Is it for your benefit?
    - iii. Will you be better because of it?
    - iv. Have you been able to trust it before?

Option B

1. Check out Ezk. 34:11-16, Lk 15:1-7, Mt. 18:10-14 and answer the following question(s)
  - a. How does Christ feel about "Lost Sheep"?
  - b. How much is he willing to give/go to bring back lost sheep?
  - c. After looking at these verses, how do you think that Jesus responds to lost sheep who don't want to come back? (opinion)