Community Group Study – John 10:31-42 (Study Guide)

The main goal of this week's study is to reflect on how we can give Jesus control of our lives.

Introduction

As an opening icebreaker or discussion, answer the following question:

1. **Have you ever known someone who made a big claim that turned out to be false? For example, pretending to have received a promotion or gone on vacation. What happened?**

Bible Study

The sermon was on John 10:31-42. We preached from this text at Zoe on 10/4/26 in a sermon called "Did Jesus Really Claim to Be God?"

John 10:31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." 39 Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

John 10:40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. 41 And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.

In this passage, Jesus clearly states his divine identity in a way that his original hearers understood. It is one of his final public disputes with the Jewish leaders in the Gospel of John.

Word: Studying the Text

The sermon had three points:

I. The claim, which shows that Jesus's divine identity was clearly stated (31-33)
II. The corroboration, which shows how Jesus's divine identity was proven (34-38)

III. The confirmation, which shows how Jesus's divine identity was believed (39-41)

2. **How do we know, from this passage only, that Jesus was claiming to be God?**

Optional follow-up: How do you think a skeptic might challenge this interpretation of Jesus's words? Can you think of any good follow-up arguments in favor of the biblical doctrine of the Trinity?

3. **Jesus says that Scripture corroborates (proves) his claim to divinity, and quotes Psalm 82:6. What are some reasons Jesus chose this passage? *(Hint: What does Jesus say about the passage in John 10:35-36?)***

Psalm 82. A Psalm of Asaph.

1 God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

4. **Jesus also says that his works corroborate his divine identity. What are some of the unique works of Jesus, which are possible or proper only for one who is truly God?**

Optional follow-up: What are some benefits of looking at the works of Jesus, and not only his teaching, in proving his divinity?

5. **Pastor Eric said that the endurance of Christianity throughout the ages is a powerful proof of the Christian faith. Why is this so? How is this claim different from saying, "Christianity is true because it's popular"?**

Worship: Getting to the Heart

6. **Have you ever talked with someone who expressed doubt about Jesus's claim to be God? For example, a child, a friend, a Mormon missionary, etc. What specifically did they find difficult about it? How did the conversation go, overall?**
7. **How does Jesus's divinity factor into your personal relationship with him?**

Work: Being Doers of the Word

8. **Is there anyone you would like to pray for or evangelize to, in light of this sermon?**

Prayer Time

Break up into single-gender prayer groups. Spend time in prayer lifting one another up. Feel free to share any personal prayer requests as well and pray for those.