

*“Breakthrough!” in 2022*

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 12.11.2022

SAFE IN HIS HANDS-JOHN 10:22-42

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel stated “I love Christmas time. I love all the decorations that go with it and the lights. I also love this tradition we’ve developed of getting bundled up and hopping in the car and driving around Candy Cane Lane and Christmas Card Lane to see all the houses. It’s one of my favorite holiday traditions. Light plays a central role in our modern celebration of Christmas, even as it does in the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. As a matter of fact, another common name for Hanukkah is the feast of lights. In our text today, we’re going to see Jesus returning to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Hanukkah. There is a three-month gap between verses 21 and 22 of John 10. We know from the other gospels that during this time, Jesus had returned to the Galilee region where He ministered and taught.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. What do you love most about the Christmas season?
3. Share some positive experiences you had as a child. How are those experiences different now as an adult?

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 10:22-23

1. What is the "Feast of Dedication" (John 10:22)?
2. What is the present name of the Feast of Dedication, held in December?
3. Explain how the Feast of Dedication or “Hanukkah” came about according to Pastor Daniel?

Hanukah takes place during the Hebrew month of Kislev, which typically coincides with our December. The great thing about Hanukah is that it lasts for eight days instead of just one day like Christmas. **This year, Hanukkah actually overlaps with Christmas.** It celebrates the purification and rededication of the Temple after it had been defiled by Antiochus Epiphanes the Syrian King in 165 B.C. Every year at Hanukah, patriotism swelled as the people remembered the revolt of Judas Maccabeus and the overthrow of Antiochus. They were looking for the next Judas Maccabeus to step up and lead a rebellion against Rome. That’s why they asked Jesus if He was the Messiah. Their understanding of the Messiah is that He would be a military leader who would lead them on the battlefield and defeat all their enemies.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 10:24-30

1. Did Jesus keep the Jews in doubt about His identity and not speak "plainly" (John 10:24)?
2. Why did they "surround Him" (John 10:24)?
3. What does Jesus do in John 10:25-29?
4. Based on John 10:28, once you become Christian, who can "snatch" you away from Jesus?

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5. What about the people who give up Christianity and choose another religion or become atheist? What about the "Christians" who say, "Since we can't be snatched away, let's do whatever we want?"

Christ talks about the fact that if we follow Him we will never perish or lose our life. Christ says that He holds us in His hand and that no one can take us from His hand. Here we see that the only way we could lose our salvation would be for Christ to fail and lose His hold on us. We can rejoice and be thankful that our salvation does not depend on what we can do to earn it. We see that it is not our own efforts that keep our salvation either. It is Christ who saves us and Christ who keeps us. The only way we could lose our salvation would be if Christ failed and we know that cannot happen.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:30-42**

1. What charge are the Jews bringing against Jesus that merits picking up "stones again to stone Him" (John 10:31)?
2. What claim as Jesus making in vs 30? How did the Jews respond? How does this prove they understood what Jesus meant?
3. What is Jesus saying in John 10:37-38? How does this prove who Jesus is?
4. Do other religious leaders “walk the walk” the way that Jesus did?
5. How do you think Jesus “went forth out of their hand” in John 10:39? Where did He go after?

Christ asked the Jews why they were planning to stone Him after He had done so many good works. The Jews said that they were going to stone Him because He made Himself God. Today there are many false religions that try to claim that Christ is not God. Here we see that the people who lead and teach these religions are like the Jews. They are doing every possible thing to deny that Christ came from God. Instead of receiving eternal life, these people are only bringing greater judgment upon themselves.

#### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

#### **Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.**

1. Jesus makes one of the most clear statements about His deity in John 10:30, “I and the Father are one.” The Jews understood clearly that Jesus was claiming to be God Himself because they picked up stones to stone him. How does this passage impact your thoughts about Jesus? How should you respond to Him?
2. Jesus said “My sheep hear my voice and follow me.” In what way do you hear Jesus voice and how do you follow Him? Explain...
3. Make an effort to speak to two younger believers this week and share with them the truths you have learned about our security in Christ?

**PRAYER** – Ask the group how you can pray for them and their families this week. Spend time praying for one another and share praise reports of what the Lord is doing in their lives. Celebrate the Christ-mas season!

**"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand." (John 10:27-29)**