



WHY IS JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

Invite someone in your group to share their testimony. Sometimes a helpful approach to this is to describe: *What life looked like before Jesus; How you encountered Jesus; How life has changed since coming to faith in Jesus; and what God has been teaching you lately.*

Spend a few minutes sharing how you have seen *Fruit of the Spirit* growth in each other (Galatians 5:22-23) or some other *Evidences of God's grace*.

OPENING COMMENT

Jesus has just given sight to a man born blind and it has caused an uproar among the pharisees. While they kicked the healed man from the synagogue, Jesus gives him an invitation, which he accepts with belief and worship (9:35-38).

Directly following this, Jesus declares two of the seven "I AM" statements in John's Gospel: *I AM the Door* and *I AM the Good Shepherd*. What makes Jesus the door to the sheep and the Good Shepherd? This text is filled with answers to that very important question.

What Truth from the Word (big takeaway) stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: John 10:1-18

¹"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them... *continue reading thru 10:18*



I: HE KNOWS, CALLS, AND LEADS US (vv 1-6)

1. Share with each other about a time when you were surprised that someone “significant” knew your name.
2. What are some things that you’ve trusted in for meaning and hope that Jesus has led you *out* of in order to bring you safe and secure into His fold?

II: HE IS OUR SALVATION, PROTECTION, & PROVISION (vv 7-10)

1. Read verse 9. It states that Jesus is *the* door of the sheep. This speaks to the exclusivity of Christ as the only way of salvation, while also stating that *if anyone* enters through Christ they will be saved. There is an exclusivity and an inclusivity in this verse. The exclusivity of Christ is a very unpopular belief. What would you say to someone who challenges you on this central Christian belief?
2. A shepherd often keeps sheep from doing things they want to do so that he can guide them to what they need. Discuss how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects and provides for us in the ways He knows we truly need.

III: HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US (vv 11-18)

1. The repetition in this section is unmistakable. The emphasis is on the fact that Jesus gave up His life in order to save, protect, and provide for those He knows, calls, and leads. It is the gospel. Jesus freely paid the penalty for our sins by dying the death we deserved so that we could be the sheep of His fold. Share insights about the gospel with each other as you see them in this text.
2. Read verse 16. Jesus was speaking to a crowd of ethnic Jews in Israel. The *sheep not of this fold* are gentiles (non-Jews). And Jesus will gather those far and near into the fold (a new covenant community, the Church). The Gospel is news for the world to know. Discuss Adonirum and Ann Judson’s passion for reaching the lost with the gospel and your own in light of this text?

CONCLUSION

The Greek word used to describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd is a word perhaps better translated, *beautiful*. So what makes Jesus such a beautiful shepherd? As our text describes, it’s many things! He knows, calls by name, and leads His sheep out of lesser allegiances and into His fold, the Church. He is the salvation, protection, and provision for His sheep. And He loves them so much that He laid His life down for their good.



When the man born blind who was healed by Jesus discovered this, he professed faith and worshipped Him (Jn 9). It ought to produce the same response in us as well.

SHARE & PRAY

- Take some time to thank Jesus for the way He lovingly shepherds you.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

