

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

MY SHEEP

Open it

1. If you could choose any animal for a pet, what would you choose?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 10:22–42.

2. Who are the main people in this passage?
3. What do the Jews want to know about Jesus?
4. Why wouldn't Jesus tell them who He was?
5. Who knows His voice?
6. What do the Jews want to do to Jesus?
7. What did Jesus tell them to believe?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Snatching Sheep vs. Safe Sheep

Read John 10:22–30.

Snatching vs Safety: I remember as a middle school and high school student I would become fearful and doubt my salvation so I'd double check with God. I'd ask God to please save me (again) from my sin so I wouldn't go to hell. I'd let him know I wanted to be in heaven with Him and to help me know for sure I was saved. I wanted to be confident that I was doing it right. There was nothing wrong with praying for more confidence in my faith, but understanding how simple it is to be saved was where my doubt and misunderstanding was. As I grew I learned that it really is as simple as following Jesus—believing in Him, following Him—and all His promises were mine to claim.

I appreciate the directness of this passage. Jesus states that those who do not believe are not His sheep. It was simple: they don't believe, they aren't mine. Yet He had a lovely list to clearly note those who do believe. They are His sheep because they know His voice, He knows them and they follow Him. They will have eternal life, never perish, and no one will snatch them out of His hand. Two emotions come to the surface here for me: snatching sounds abrupt and unsettling, and then there's comfort because I cannot be snatched out of His hand. I am SAFE because I know the Shepherd but really because the Shepherd knows me.

8. Why do you think no one is able to snatch those who believe?

9. a. How do you know if you are one of His sheep? If a friend asked you how they could believe, what would you say?

OR

b. If you don't believe, think about what questions you still have that are keeping you from believing. Write down what questions you have here and please ask your small group or leaders at small group. (Trust me, they would LOVE to talk about this!)

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Stoning and Seizing the Shepherd

Read John 10:31–39.

In this part of the passage the Jews are accusing Jesus of saying He is God. (They considered it blasphemy for anyone to claim to be God.) They were horrified and hated Him for it, so they were going to stone Him. Jesus responded by asking for which good work were they stoning Him. They told Him that it wasn't for His works but for His claim of being equal with God. In that moment, they missed the point. He was showing them He was God so they would understand who He was. They missed it.

I think we can all fall into that. We expect things to turn out one way, but they don't. Our expectations are completely different from God's plan. Jesus was the plan, but the expectations of the people were so different they missed the work right in front of them.

Have you ever seen God work? I have! Honestly, I get excited because there are so many stories, and they are so awesome! However, I will limit myself to one. When my children were itty bitty (2 years old and 4 months old) my husband lost his job. We spent the next FOUR YEARS watching God work by providing for us when we had nothing. One specific story was when we received a utility bill we had forgotten was coming that was around \$300. We didn't have any money to cover that. After I opened it up, I called my husband to fill him in. We briefly talked about how God would work it out and hung up. Then, there was a knock at the door. I did not recognize the woman who said hello but she smiled, handed me an envelope and a potted plant. She told me this was a gift. I said thank you and closed the door. Guess what was in the envelope? Yep, \$300 dollars—just what we needed to pay that unexpected bill. It was likely only seconds later that I opened the door again to try to catch her, but there was no one in sight—no car, no person, nothing. I firmly believe that God was working. He showed His work to us. We just had to believe it was from Him. I could have denied it or chalked it up to coincidence, but it was so obvious to me that He did it, I had to praise Him. That specific incident strengthened my faith and helped me understand His care for my little family. That FOUR YEARS holds many more stories of looking for every small way to see that God was working. When we looked, we continued to see many ways He was at work. I encourage you to look for God's work. Don't miss it.

10. When life is difficult it is often hard to believe God is working. What makes it difficult for you to believe God works?

11. Have you ever seen works that helped strengthen your faith or helped you know God is real? (If you can't think of anything, ask your parents for their experiences, I bet they have more than one story.)

12. What would it take to help you believe?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Adding Sheep

Read John 10:40–42.

After Jesus “eluded the crowd” of Jews in Jerusalem He left for “the place where John was first baptizing.” Initially, I think He wanted to get away from the crowds, the noise, the messy city. As I continue to read, it says many believed. I wonder if He left Jerusalem to get a break or because many were going to believe. Maybe both. I like that Jesus gave an example to us of getting away and still getting to do God’s work.

13. Why might it have been easier to believe in Jesus where John was first baptizing than in Jerusalem?

14. Where is it easier for you to believe in Jesus? At school? At home? In His creation? Why is that?

So what?

What can you do this week to strengthen your faith? Is there a specific difficult circumstance where can you look for God to work?