

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

**THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

Open it

1. Out of all your friends, who do you trust the most and what makes that friend so trustworthy?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 10:1–21.

2. What is the right and wrong way to enter the sheep's pen and who uses what way?
3. For whom does the Good Shepherd lay down His life?
4. Who gives Jesus the authority to do what He does?
5. What do the Pharisees think Jesus is?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Why Jesus Christ is the One and Only True God

Read John 10:1–10.

“Jesus described a flock of ‘sheep’ in a ‘fold’ or pen that had solid walls and only one ‘door’ (gate). Evidently the ‘fold’ in view was a large enclosure some distance from any human dwelling place. Customarily, several families who owned sheep would feed their sheep in nearby pastures and hire a watchman to guard the gate to such an exposed enclosure. The watchman would admit authorized individuals but would exclude the unauthorized ones who might want to steal or kill some of the sheep. The words ‘thief’ and ‘robber’ are quite close in meaning.”¹

We need to trust Jesus to be our Shepherd and not try to be our own guard but trust in the words He has given us and none other. For He is the only one capable of sustaining us and growing us. Just as a shepherd takes care of his sheep, Christ does this for us.

6. How do you know if you have Jesus as your Gatekeeper?

7. Of what benefit is it to us as Christians to have Him as our Keeper in our day-to-day lives?

¹ Constable, Thomas. DD. "Commentary on John 10". "Dr. Constable's Expository Notes".://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/john-10.html. 2012.

Day 3 — Today's Theme: FOR WHOM DID CHRIST LAY DOWN HIS LIFE?

Read John 10:11–18.

“Here is another “I am” claim. Jesus is the Good Shepherd in contrast to the bad shepherds just described (vv. 8, 10a). Rather than killing the sheep so He might live, as the bad shepherds did, Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life so the sheep might live. It is this extreme commitment to the welfare of the sheep that qualified Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The other titles, “Great Shepherd” (Hebrews 13:20–21) and “Chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:4), stress different aspects of Jesus’ character as a shepherd. Good shepherding involves protecting, providing, and sacrificing.”²

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day were concerned with demonstrating their power and authority and making sure people were honoring that, Jesus proves Himself to be the “Good Shepherd,” demonstrating that with one ultimate act—laying down His own life for His sheep. It’s because Jesus is the “Good Shepherd” or “Great Shepherd” or “Chief Shepherd” that we, as His sheep, are able to hear His voice. And we prove to truly be His sheep when we do hear His voice and follow Him.

8. With so many “voices” competing for your attention and loyalty today, how can you be sure you are really listening to the voice of Jesus and not a different “shepherd”?

9. How can you know if you are truly one of Jesus’ sheep? What does it mean to have Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

10. What are some misconceptions you think people have about being a sheep in Jesus’ flock?

² Ibid.

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Christ is Our Shepherd

Read John 10:19–21.

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. “Again Jesus’ claims resulted in some of His hearers believing in Him and others disbelieving. Here the expression ‘the Jews’ refers to the Jewish people generally, not specifically to the religious leaders, as it usually does in this Gospel. Evidently it was the apparent contradiction between Jesus’ claim to be the coming Shepherd of Israel and His claim that He would die for the sheep that caused the cleavage. Some even concluded that He was ‘demon-possessed’ and therefore insane. Others concluded that He was sane and sober because of His gracious revelations and His ability to cure the man born blind (9:1–12). John continued to stress the two opposite conclusions that people continued to draw, even though Jesus’ witness to His deity was sufficiently consistent and clear. This should be an encouragement to all of us who testify for Him. Not even Jesus Himself convinced everyone that He was God’s Son.”³

We live by faith and not by sight. We don’t get to see Jesus in the flesh performing miracles. Believe it or not, we actually have something better than that—the Holy Spirit (John 16:7)! Crazy, right?! The Spirit brings us together as a body of believers. Having the Spirit allows us to hear the word of God and understand it, giving us insight to what His plan is. People who do not have this will bring division among us. We hold strong to the teachings of God and not our own feelings because we know that our own feelings can be misleading. That’s how we stand together to do God’s will and not our own.

11. How would you tell your friends that Jesus is real and is the Son of God?

12. Why do you think most people don't want to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

13. What things do you see Christians today divide over? And what do they agree on?

³ Ibid.

Note: This study was written by Joshua Nilsen. www.villagebible.church/students.