

Jesus in His own words #4: The Good Shepherd John 10:1-18

Objectives: We want people to KNOW that Jesus is a Good Shepherd who cares for His sheep by providing, protecting and laying down His life. We want to respond by hearing His voice and following Him. We want students to practically take steps to follow Him in each area of their life.

Launch

In what ways have religious leaders in our world hurt those that follow them?

This also happened in the day of Jesus. In John 9, Jesus heals a man born blind. The religious leaders are jealous of Jesus, so they treat this man harshly and throw him out of the temple. This passage provides the context for some important revelation about Jesus. Jesus uses a metaphor to help answer the question- Who is Jesus?

Explore

Read John 10:1-18

Jesus uses the metaphor of the shepherd and sheep that was commonly understood in that day. It will help us understand this passage if we know a little bit about shepherds and sheep.

- **What do we know about sheep?** (They are very dumb animals that can't survive on their own without help. They need help finding food, water and are defenseless if attacked.)
- **What do we know about shepherds?** (The shepherd gives his life to the sheep. He is their protector, provider, leader, guide and owner. The sheep are his only possession. He spends all his time with the sheep (even sleeping in the doorway of the sheep pen in order to protect them).)
- **Skim verses 1-18 looking for verses that describe Jesus as a shepherd. What do each of these mean?** (*Ask students to call out a verse reference and the phrase, then ask what they think it means. Fill in from below if not all are mentioned.*)
 - He calls sheep by the name that He has given them.
 - He leads them out
 - Door or Gate (*the way of salvation*)
 - The Good Shepherd who willingly lays down his life for the sheep
 - Knows sheep personally and completely
 - There are other sheep that he wants to find
 - He owns the sheep
- **Which of these things about Jesus do you like most? Why?**
- **Which of these things make you uncomfortable? Why?**
- **Who are the sheep Jesus is talking about?**
- **How is Jesus different from the religious leaders he refers to?** (He protects, they run; He lays down His life in order to give us life, they come

to steal, kill and destroy life; He knows his sheep intimately, they do not know the sheep)

- **What does Jesus say that He will give to His sheep that follow Him?** (abundant life (10); protection, pasture (9)- which is a place of rest and provision...)
- **What is the abundant life that Jesus offers?**

Apply (you need at least 15 minutes!)

Read the passage again

In this metaphor Jesus promises some amazing things to His sheep that He knows and leads. Sheep follow their shepherd completely in every area of their life.

- **What do you think it looks like for someone to really follow Jesus in this way?**
- **What makes it so hard for us to follow Jesus in every area of our life?**
- **Our life could be broken down into different areas such as: school, family, job, friends, boyfriend/girlfriend, spiritual, physical, etc... Jesus wants to shepherd us to abundant life in every area of our life. Which area of your life is it most hard for you to surrender control of your life and follow Jesus?**
- **Why would someone want to follow Jesus in every area of their life?** (*because he is willing to lay his life down for his sheep. Verses 11,15, 17, 18. Jesus willingly died so that he could give the abundant life to his followers.*)
- **John 10:10 makes some contrasts. One of the contrasts Jesus makes is between the life the Good Shepherd offers and life apart from Him. How would you describe these two lives? Which life best describes where you desire to live?**

Read 10:19-20.

When Jesus was on earth there were some who believed him and followed him as Lord. There were some who were unsure but were checking him out. Others thought he was dangerous and had him killed. Where are you when it comes to following Jesus?

Explain that LG is a place where everyone can be in process with following Christ, but we

**desire to do what we can to help people know
him as shepherd and enjoy the abundant life he
offers...**

Pray in groups

Announcements (5 minutes)