

# 12

JOHN 10:1-18,25-30

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD



### THIS WEEK'S focus

It makes sense that the human brain would struggle to comprehend God. Who is He, really? That's what the religious crowd was almost always asking Jesus: Who are you? Over and over again, Jesus used everyday things to help people understand His identity. We've seen Him use water, bread, and light—and today, we'll see Him use two metaphors about sheep. Jesus described Himself as the door to the sheep pen and as the Good Shepherd. Both claims reveal the fierce love and protection He offers to those who recognize His voice when He calls. And yet, we still often refuse to listen to His voice.



### CENTRAL truth

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of His sheep.



EXPLORE

# scripture

JOHN 10:1-18,25-30

## JOHN 10:1-10

1 “Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because

they don’t know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. 9 I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

## JOHN 10:11-18

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. 13 This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn’t care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life

for the sheep. 16 But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

## JOHN 10:25-30

25 “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in my Father’s name testify about me. 26 But you don’t believe because you are not of my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and

they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE JOHN 10:14

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

## JOHN 10:1-10

### DWELL

Sheep from several shepherds might have been gathered in one sheep pen, yet the sheep didn't get confused about who was leading them because they could recognize their shepherd's voice. In the same way, Jesus's sheep recognize His voice but those who are not His sheep do not. (Ironically, those to whom Jesus said this didn't understand what He was saying.) Jesus is more than the Shepherd—He's also the door.



What's the difference between the reason thieves come to the sheep pen and why Jesus came?



What does Jesus mean when He calls Himself the door?

### MEMORIZE

Write out John 10:14 on a piece of paper, "taking a picture" of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

### PRAY

If you are a Christ follower, you recognize Jesus's voice, but like with any relationship, you can always become even more familiar with the way He sounds. Ask Jesus to help you recognize His voice more every day.

day 2

# JOHN 10:11-15; PSALM 23

## DWELL



What common threads do you see between today's two texts?



Psalms are often viewed as prayers. How can today's Bible passages inform how you pray?

Both of today's texts remind us not just that God is our Shepherd but also what makes Him a Good Shepherd. He is good because He lays down His life for His sheep and then took it up again! Because God conquered death on our behalf, we do not have to fear—even when we are in the valley of the shadow of death. Because He gave us life, we can trust Him with our lives.

## MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 10:14 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

## PRAY

Borrow the words from Psalm 23 and use them to pray to God, declaring who He is and what He has done for you.

day 3

# JOHN 10:16-21

## DWELL

Over the course of Jesus's teaching about sheep and shepherds, He essentially accused the religious leaders of being hired hands—people who were supposed to care for the sheep but didn't actually protect them. (We witnessed this with their treatment of the healed blind man!) Though these people struggled to fully grasp all that Jesus was saying, they knew they didn't like it. They wouldn't care for those who needed it—but Jesus would, by laying down His life and taking it up again.



What kinds of things did people think about Jesus?



How can Jesus's example inform how you treat others?

## MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 10:14 from memory twice.

## PRAY

Has there ever been a time when someone who was supposed to care for you didn't? In prayer, invite the Lord into that moment and ask Him to show you how He is unlike that person.

day 4

# JOHN 10:22-31

## DWELL

← So far in John, what have we seen Jesus do to reveal who He is?

↓ Why do you think it's so difficult for people both then and now to believe who He is?

Once again, a crowd asked Jesus who He was. But Jesus was clear that He'd already offered plenty of words and works that demonstrated His identity. Their problem wasn't that they didn't have enough information—it was that they weren't His sheep, so they didn't recognize His voice. However, once He gave them what they wanted and offered a clear declaration about Himself (see v. 30), they wanted to kill Him.

## MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 10:14 from memory as you can.

## PRAY

Think of someone you know who struggles to believe who Jesus is. Pray for that person, and ask God to give them ears to recognize His voice.

day 5

# JOHN 10:32-42

## DWELL

← Why did Jesus's words make the crowd angry enough to kill Him?

→ How could you respond when other people respond to Jesus's claims about Himself with anger or doubt?

Jesus's claims about Himself were a big deal and they demanded a response. It's safe to say that there weren't many who felt "meh" about Jesus! When they heard what He said, everyone had a take. Though we see so much disbelief and anger in the Gospel of John, we also see lives transformed. Many did not believe in Jesus and became so inflamed by His words that they wanted to kill Him, yet many others heard His words and believed.

## MEMORIZE

Write out John 10:14 somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

## PRAY

Whether you are struggling with doubts or believe wholeheartedly, share with God your honest feelings about the claims Jesus made about Himself.