

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 17

I am the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To portray the sheep-shepherd relationship between man and Christ. To demonstrate what it means that Christ is our Shepherd, highlighting that out of love the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Key Verses

John 10:7-18—Main Teaching Passage

1 Samuel 17:34-36

Matthew 18:12-14

Psalm 23:2

Romans 5:8

1 Peter 3:18

Memory Verse - Isaiah 53:6

"All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Hook

Review last weeks memory verse: John 16:33.

Create two columns on the board with the headings, "Predator" and, "Prey." Have the students make a list of all the most vicious predators they can think of. In the second column, have them make a list of all the animals that get eaten by the other list. However, have them include any defenses that those animals might have (turtles have shells, chameleons have camouflage, etc.) Finally, make a third column with the heading, "Helpless" and underneath it write down in big letters "SHEEP."

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In last week's study we looked at Jesus being the door for the sheep, protecting them from the thieves that want to kill, steal and destroy. In this week's study, Jesus takes the analogy one step further, declaring that not only is He the door for the sheep, but He is the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd in this case is distinguished from the hireling, who at the first sign of danger flees, leaving the sheep to their fate.

In 1 Samuel 17:34-36 when David was about to face Goliath, He gave us a great example of what it means to "lay down your life for the sheep." He said that not only did he fight off and lions and bears, but when they took sheep from the flock, David went and chased them down, killing both lions and bears in order to save the sheep's life. Christ declares that unlike the hireling, who doesn't care about the sheep, the very reason He lays down His life for us is because of His great love for us (Romans 5:8).

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Unfortunately for us, the label of "sheep" we are given in John 10 and Isaiah 53 is not a compliment. We are sheep, and when it comes to intelligent behavior, sheep rank right at the bottom. Sheep are easily distracted, have a terrible sense of direction, wander off aimlessly, and blindly follow one another. The following story from USA Today highlights just how idiotic sheep are:

450 sheep jump to their deaths in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — First one sheep jumped to its death. Then stunned Turkish shepherds, who had left the herd to graze while they had breakfast, watched as nearly 1,500 others followed, each leaping off the same cliff, Turkish media reported.

In the end, 450 dead animals lay on top of one another in a billowy white pile, the Aksam newspaper said. Those who jumped later were saved as the pile got higher and the fall more cushioned, Aksam reported. "There's nothing we can do. They're all wasted," Nevzat Bayhan, a member of one of 26 families whose sheep were grazing together in the herd, was quoted as saying by Aksam. The estimated loss to families in the town of Gevas, located in Van province in eastern Turkey, tops \$100,000.

LOOK (Continued)

The truth is that sheep need a shepherd. They need someone who is going to care for them and protect them from predators, but also from themselves. You and I are just like sheep. We blindly follow each other into danger. We get lost and can't find our way back home. The difficult part for us is there are a million different things out there offering to be our shepherd. We are pulled at and called to by all kinds of things wanting us to follow them right off cliffs. All of us need to decide who or what we are going to follow, and just like Christ says in John 10, there is a simple test. When trouble comes, when life gets difficult, when we look for something to help us out, are the people or things that we have given our lives to around to save us, support us, and pull us up out of trouble? Are the people that we are following telling us not to do things that will hurt us? Or do they encourage us to sin?

Christ is THE Good Shepherd, not just because He "makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters," (Psalm 23:2) but because when we were lost and dying, He rescued us. We were being carried into eternal separation from God and He chased us down and saved us. Our passage ends by telling us that "He laid his life down willingly." Christ Jesus loves you so much that He willingly gave up His life so that you in turn can "have life more abundantly." 1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God."

We all have a choice that we have to make in life: will we follow the Good Shepherd, who has proven His love for us by giving up His own life, or following a false shepherd, who when the going gets tough, just gets going?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Isaiah 53:6.

Pray: Thank the Lord that He is the Good Shepherd and praise Him for laying down His life so that we can have life in abundance. Ask that we would have ears to hear His voice and to follow Him.

Parent Question: (As a family, read Matthew 18:12-14.) Why does the Shepherd leave the flock to save one sheep?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 10 by David Guzik

4. (11-15) The good shepherd will lay down his life for the flock.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."

a. **The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep:** The bad shepherd thinks the flock exists for his benefit, but the **good shepherd** lives (and dies) for the good of the sheep.

- The good shepherd sacrifices for the sheep
- The good shepherd knows his sheep
- The good shepherd is known by the sheep

b. The faithful pastor will, as an under-shepherd, display the same characteristics as the Good Shepherd. He will sacrifice for the sheep, know the sheep, and be known by them. He will be a **shepherd** and not a **hireling** who **does not care about the sheep**.

i. The title *pastor* translates the same ancient Greek word used here for **shepherd**. It is a title that is only rightfully earned, not granted or assumed.

5. (16) Jesus speaks of other sheep.

"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd."

a. **Other sheep I have which are not of this fold:** These "other sheep" are Gentile believers, not of the fold of Israel.

b. There is **one flock** and **one shepherd**; but Jesus calls His sheep from more than one **fold** (group of people).

c. **There will be one flock:** The early Christian Bible translator Jerome, when translating his influential Latin version mistakenly translated *one fold* instead of **one flock** in this verse. His Latin Vulgate reading is the erroneous foundation for a doctrine of Roman Catholic exclusiveness.

6. (17-18) Jesus claims to have power over life and death.

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me,

but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

a. **Therefore My Father loves Me:** Anyone can lay down his life; only Jesus can take His life up again. Because Jesus has the power to take up His own life, it is evidence of His unique relationship with His **Father**.

b. **That I may take it again . . . I have power to take it again:** In this sense, we can say that Jesus "raised Himself" from the dead. He had the power to lay down His life, and He had the power to take it up again.

i. It doesn't surprise us that Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus could take His own life up again. Yet many others (such as Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Fred Price and others) teach that Jesus was a helpless victim in hell, saved only by the intervention of God the Father.

c. **This command I have received from My Father:** The death of Jesus was completely voluntary, but it was not an indirect suicide in any sense. It was part of a plan to submit to death and then to emerge from it victoriously alive, according to the **command . . . received from** God the Father.