



John 10:11 – “I am the good Shepherd”

Write in your own words how you have come to know Jesus as the “The Good Shepherd”.

LET PEOPLE SHARE WHAT THEY WROTE

- ❖ Read John Chapter 10:11-30

In this passage Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd. Throughout the Bible God has presented Himself as a Shepherd of His people and us as the sheep of His flock. He also reveals His purpose to lay down His life for us.

- ❖ How many times in this passage can you find the message that Jesus will lay down His life for us? Jesus declares this truth 5 times in this short passage. In verse 11 Jesus says, “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Again in verse 15 He says, “I lay down my life for the sheep”. Then in verse 17 he says, “I lay down my life—only to take it up again”. In verse 18 Jesus says, “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord” and then He continues saying, “I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.” Based on this repeated message I guess Jesus thought it was pretty important that we understood He came to lay down His life for us and to lift it up again.

- ❖ Take a moment to reflect upon and discuss the role and purpose of the shepherd. Share with your group what you know about a good shepherd.

The shepherd has a number of important roles: To protect the sheep from predators. To lead them to green pasture and to safety. To take them to food and water. To bring them to a place of rest. To go after them when they wonder. To rescue them from harm. To carry them when they can't go on their own. To always lead them on their way. To watch over them always.

- ❖ Next, take a moment to reflect on the sheep and share what you know about sheep. Sheep are helpless. They have no teeth, no claws. They are slow runners. They even look weak. Sheep are not a very good argument for an evolutionist if you know what I mean. Sheep are completely dependent on the shepherd. In addition sheep are dumb (sorry). They need a shepherd to make the right decisions. They need a shepherd to take them to the place of food, water, shelter, safety and rest. Simply said, sheep are very dependant.

- ❖ What conclusions can you make about your relationship with Jesus based on the analogy of the shepherd and the sheep?

We are dependent on Christ in every way. We are dependent on him for salvation. We are dependent on him for provision. We are dependent on him for protection. We can count on the Good Shepherd for all things.

- ❖ Consider reading David's words as a shepherd found in 1 Samuel 17:34-35 and compare his role to the role Jesus claims as the Good Shepherd in verses 11-13. What does this tell you about our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ?

Jesus will fight for us. He will defend us against the attacks of the enemy. He already won the most important battle once for all, our salvation. And He will never leave us or forsake us (Check out Hebrews 13:6)

- ❖ In verse 14 Jesus says, “I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” What does this tell you about your relationship with Jesus?

Jesus knows you! And you can know Jesus. Our relationship with Jesus is real and personal. And it is the most important relationship I can ever have.

- ❖ He goes on in verse 16 to say, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” What does this truth tell you about Jesus and His kingdom?

Jesus came not only for the Jews but the Gentiles as well. Jesus has a vast kingdom. His flock is large and open to all. And He reminds us that it is not many flocks but one flock with many sheep. One Church with many people. We must remember that we have many brothers and sisters in Christ. And they don't all go to Evergreen Valley Church. In fact they don't all live in San Jose or even America. Christ's Kingdom is vast and stretches across the heaven and earth and includes people from every race and culture. Praise be to our Lord someday we will all celebrate in His presence together. One flock with one Shepherd!

- ❖ In verse 18 Jesus says “no one takes it (my life) from me but I lay it down on my own accord. I have the authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.” How would you explain the meaning of that statement to a person who didn't know what Jesus was talking about?

Ask people to share how they would explain that to a person who asked. This is a trial run of sharing our belief in Jesus.

Jesus came to lay down His life for me and you. Even though people may look for someone to blame the truth is Jesus Himself was the one who decided to sacrifice His life so that we might be forgiven. He took on the punishment of the world for sin so that we wouldn't face the punishment. And because He was God incarnate, He not only died for us but He rose for us. He now lives and reigns as our Lord and Savior.

As an act of worship, read and reflect on Isaiah 40:11 before your close in prayer.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

Daily Reading Plan through the Gospel of John

- Day 1 – Memory Verse: John 10:11
- Day 2 – John 13:1-17
- Day 3 – John 13:18-38
- Day 4 – John 14:1-14
- Day 5 – John 14:15-31
- Day 6 – John 15:1-17
- Day 7 – John 15:18-27

