

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Lesson 10 – Study Questions

John 10:1-42

DAY ONE

1. What thoughts from the Spiritual Reflection or commentary helped you in your daily life this week? Record some thoughts to share with your group.

Read John 10:1-5

2a. Continuing His criticism of the Pharisees, Jesus began one of the most beloved passages in the New Testament, commonly known as “The Good Shepherd” discourse. He first described who is not a good shepherd. How would such a person enter the sheepfold and what does this reveal about him (verse 1)?

b. Jesus expanded His analogy in verse 2. Who is the real shepherd of the sheep?

3. What three things happen when the real shepherd comes to the sheepfold and the gatekeeper opens the gate for him (verse 3)?

4a. When he has driven out all his own sheep, the shepherd walks ahead of them. Unrestrained, do the sheep run away? Why or why not (verse 4)?

b. Conversely, the sheep will not follow a stranger. Why will they run away from him (verse 5)?

5. Thinking back to chapter 9, who was able to recognize Jesus’ voice and who did not?

6. CONNECTION: Sheep develop a keen awareness of the shepherd's voice, and "stupid" as they are, trustingly follow the shepherd. We too need a Shepherd, and must learn to recognize His voice so we can follow Him on paths of righteousness. Our surroundings tend to be noisier than those of sheep living in quiet country fields or mountains. How and where do you listen for and get to know your Shepherd's voice? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record your favorite translation or rendition of Psalm 23:1-2. Remember that in order to hear our Shepherd, we have to be still. Begin your prayer today quietly listening.

DAY TWO

Read John 10:6-13

7a. Many Old Testament passages refer to certain leaders of Israel as bad shepherds. Nevertheless, the Pharisees did not recognize to what Jesus was referring. Read and record one example of bad leadership from among the following passages:

Jeremiah 23:1-8

Ezekiel 34:2

Zechariah 10:2-3, 11:4-17

b. In verse 7 Jesus describes Himself as the gate for the sheep. What do you think this means?

8a. In verse 8 Jesus referred again to the false prophets and deceivers of the people in Jewish history such as King Jeroboam. Can you think of another example?

b. The gatekeeper would often drive the sheep into the sheepfold and then lie down at the entrance in order to block ingress or egress. According to verse 9, what are the two results for those who enter the sheepfold through Jesus?

9a. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy. In contrast, for what purpose did Jesus, our good Shepherd, come, according to the last sentence of verse 10? (Good memory verse)

b. In verse 11 Jesus stated, “I am the Good Shepherd.” What does a good shepherd do?

10a. Jesus then described a “hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own.” What does the hired man do when he sees a wolf coming and what happens as a result (verse 12)?

b. How does taking ownership make a difference (verse 13)?

11. When Jesus said, “I AM the good shepherd” He was asserting that He was the fulfillment of God’s promise in the Old Testament that God, Himself, would come to shepherd His people. Read the following verses and write a phrase from each that illustrates this.

Isaiah 40:11

Ezekiel 34:11-12

12. CONNECTION: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, came to us that we might have life and have it abundantly. Jesus wants to give us a joyous life, a powerful life, abundant beyond measure. This is not about money. This is about living in the presence of God, full of His love, joy and trust. Think about how Jesus your Shepherd has offered you a life of abundance. Name some aspects of your life that overflow with His grace and blessings.

Read and record Proverbs 3:10 and let thoughts of our Good Shepherd lead you into a prayer of thanks for His abundant love.

DAY THREE

Read John 10:14-21

13. Continuing His shepherd discourse, Jesus repeated that He is the Good Shepherd (verse 14). Complete the following sentences from verses 14 and 15:

I know mine and

Just as the Father knows me and

And I will

14. Jesus spoke about having “other sheep.” What are 3 aspects of the “other sheep” and who do you think the other sheep might be (verse 16)?

15a. What is the end result for all of Jesus’ sheep, including the “other sheep” (end of verse 16)?

b. Read and record how this result was prophesied in Isaiah 66:18.

16a. Why does Jesus’ Father love Him and to what do you think Jesus was referring (verse 17)?

b. Jesus reemphasized that it was His choice to lay down His life, saying “I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.” How did Jesus end His discourse in verse 18?

17. In verse 19, the Jews were again divided by Jesus’ statements. In your own words, explain the dissension among them in verses 20-21.

18. CONNECTION: Today’s lesson contains one of several passages in which Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. Christianity is more than a philosophy or a set of ideas but a relationship with a real Person Whom we love and want to please. He has laid down His life for us. He is our Shepherd, Who knows us and calls us by name. Has there been a time in your life when you felt protected and led by your Shepherd or have you known other people in your community, school, parish, who have shepherded you on your faith journey? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Isaiah 40:11 and begin your prayer thanking God for shepherding you in your faith walk.

DAY FOUR

Read John 10:22-26

19. As today's lesson begins, Jesus was in Jerusalem. In verse 22, for what celebration was Jesus there and what time of year was it?

20. The Feast of Dedication commemorated the rededication of the altar of the Temple by Judas Maccabeus in 164 B.C. after its desecration by Antiochus III. Today this feast is called Hanukkah or Feast of Lights. Complete a few details about the feast from 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, and 54-59.

Judas and his brothers said, "Now that our enemies have been crushed,

On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had defiled it, on that very day

For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully

21a. In verse 23 what was Jesus doing and in what part of the temple area?

b. Look at the diagram of the temple from Jesus' time and comment on how the location of this Portico affected the kind of people to whom Jesus was speaking.

22. The Jews gathered around Jesus. What was their question to Him in verse 24?

23. Jesus answered that He had told them but they did not believe and that His works in His Father's name testified to His divinity (verse 25). For what reason did He say they still did not believe (verse 26)?

24. CONNECTION: The Jews were hoping for a Messiah like Judas Maccabeus who would restore the glory of their former kingdom and rescue them from foreign oppression. Although they were free to worship in the Temple, Israel was still under the boot of pagan rulers. In what ways do you see in us a likeness to the Jews of Jesus' time? What kind of a "kingdom" do you desire and what would Jesus say about it?

Read and record Zechariah 14:9 and pray that His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

DAY FIVE

Read John 10:27-33

25. Today's lesson is a turning point in the gospel of John in which Jesus clearly declares His divinity and sets the stage for His execution. In verse 27 Jesus identifies those whom He will save. What differentiates His followers?

26a. Jesus made a powerful promise and prophecy in verse 28. Record the entire verse.

b. What are some thoughts that came to your mind as you wrote that verse?

27. In verse 29 Jesus said that His Father who gave Him those sheep is greater than all. What promise did He repeat?

28a. Jesus said, "The Father and I are one" (verse 30). What part of the new translation of the Nicene Creed (written in 325 A.D.) contains a similar statement?

b. What was the Jews' response in verse 31 to Jesus' statement that He and the Father were One?

29a. Jesus told them that He had shown them many good works from the Father and asked them, "For which of these are you trying to stone me" (verse 32)? Think back and list some of His good works.

b. The Jews' reply that "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy." What did He say or do that made them think He deserved stoning (verse 33)?

30. CONNECTION: In this passage Jesus told the Jews that if they did not believe His declaration that He was one with the Father then they should look at His good works. The author C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity* that judging both Jesus' words and works we have three choices: we can believe that Jesus was a mad man, a charlatan, or truly God as He claimed to be. We are known by what we say and do. In determining the character of others, to which do you pay most attention - their words or their works? Give an example for your small group.

Read and record Proverbs 27:19 and pray that our works and words mirror the heart of Jesus.

DAY SIX

Read John 10:34-42

31. In today's lesson Jesus began His response to the Jews' accusation of blasphemy (verse 34). Record His question.

NOTE: Jesus quoted from Psalm 82 which calls the judges of Israel "gods" because they had received from God the important and god-like job of judging on His behalf. (USCCB)

32a. Jesus then argued in verses 35-36 that since even civil judges were "gods", He Who was consecrated and sent by the Father had not blasphemed by claiming to be divine. Record Jesus' words that the Jews said were blasphemous (verse 36).

b. What does it mean to be consecrated by the Father and how is Jesus' consecration linked to the re-consecration of the Temple?

33a. Under what circumstances should the Jews not believe in Jesus according to verse 37?

b. Complete the following statements from verse 38:

But if I perform them, even if you do not believe me,

so that you may realize [and understand] that the Father is in me

34. Because of His "blasphemy" the Jews tried to arrest Jesus. What happened in verse 39?

35a. In verses 40-42 Jesus went across the Jordan to where John was baptizing earlier. What were the people saying?

b. What happened there (verse 42)?

36. CONNECTION: This lesson ends, "And many there began to believe in him." Sadly, some still refuse to accept Jesus as Lord because it would require them to change their lifestyle or admit past sins they would like to forget. Others simply think they can get along without Him. In what ways do some people try to "get rid of God" or harden their hearts in order to keep out His voice? What have you done or tried in order to open their hearts to Jesus? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Psalm 95:7-8 states, “For he is our God, we are the people he shepherds, the sheep in his hands. Oh, that today you would hear his voice: Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the desert.” Begin your prayer, asking God for His grace to soften the hardest of hearts.

Read Lesson 10 John 10:1-25 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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