

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 5: John 10: 1-18

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Discussion:

Read: John 10: 1-18 (out loud)

1. In our passage Jesus uses figures of speech to his disciples, but in v. 6 it says they did not understand. So, in vv. 1-5, who are the sheep, and who are the bandits? And who is the shepherd?
2. In vv. 7-10 Jesus again tries to describe to his disciples who he is. What is the difference between the story in vv. 1-6 and 7-10?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is both the gate and the shepherd?
4. Many of us think of God as a hired hand who watches over us out of duty, but read vv. 11-15. What does this say about God?
5. Vv. 4 and 16 mention the sheep knowing and listening to the voice of the shepherd. How do we recognize the voice of our Shepherd? Where do we hear him? What would it look like to obey him in your own life?
6. Most people would never choose to be crucified on a roman cross. But here Jesus says that he lays his life down of his own accord (v. 18). Why would he clarify that this is his decision? Why would he say that he has the authority to do so?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 10: 1-18.

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes^[b] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”