

Do You Know the Good Shepherd?

Word

Scripture Reference

John 10:11-18

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of personality are you inclined to admire and follow?
2. What does Jesus mean when He said, "I am the good shepherd?" The Greek word used for "good" here doesn't mean kind and friendly (personality); it refers to Jesus' superiority and excellence in ability. He is extremely capable and someone you can count on, just like a shepherd. Why do you think that of all the animals, sheep was mentioned as needing a shepherd? How would you describe a good shepherd?
3. Read John 10:11-18. This passage answers the question why Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. First, Jesus can be called the Good Shepherd because He gave His life for the sheep. The teaching of the death of Jesus are mentioned four times (v.11, 15, 17, and 18) in this passage. How do these verses emphasize the differences of the good shepherd to the hired hand? Discuss how Jesus willingly and sacrificially laid down His life for His sheep. What did Apostle Paul remind us about His death in Romans 5:6-8? How is Jesus like a shepherd to you in your daily life?
4. Second, Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He knows the sheep and is known by them. A good shepherd knows his sheep and his sheep recognized the shepherd's call. How does the psalmist in 139:1-4 describe how much your Good Shepherd knows you? Share how you recognize His voice as His sheep? In the midst of your busy schedule, how can you better hear the voice of Jesus as your Shepherd?
5. Jesus knows that you, just like sheep, could be helpless and

wayward that's why you need a Good Shepherd. Discuss how you as a Christian could be helpless and disobedient in living your life without Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Share a personal testimony of how you have either felt helpless or tried to wander off from your faith, but Jesus helped you and pulled you in.

Walk

All we like sheep have gone astray yet in Jesus we have a Shepherd who is constantly on the alert to keep us from wandering and to seek us out when we succeed in going astray (as we often do). Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He laid down His life for the sheep. He is also the Good Shepherd because He knows His sheep, and still willingly and sacrificially laid down his life for them. Meditate on Psalm 23 which is such a wonderful passage, but it has no value unless He is your Good Shepherd. Think of how you can listen more attentively to the voice of Jesus?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Who willingly and sacrificially laid down His life for my sake. Thank you for the picture of a Good Shepherd in Him who knows my name, and keeps me from wandering and going astray. Lord, help me to be sensitive to my Shepherd's voice. That I would recognize His voice and obey. Help me to allow Him to lead and guide me in my daily walk with You. In Jesus Name. Amen.