

The Good Shepherd

JOHN 10 • LESSON 12

Our last study concluded with Jesus saying in [John 9:39](#), “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Even though we have a chapter break, [John 10](#) seems to be a continuation of the same teaching in Jerusalem.

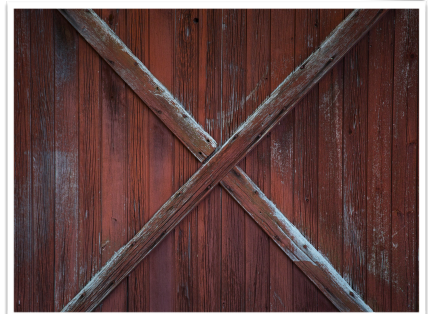
“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the _____ by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep _____ him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the _____ of the _____. ([10:1-7](#))

Think about that. We’ve heard Jesus describe himself so far in John’s Gospel as “the bread of life” ([6:35](#)) and “the light of the world” ([8:12](#)), now “the door of the sheep.” He goes on to emphasize, “I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly” ([10:10](#)). Just how far is Jesus willing to go to help people have abundant life?

“I am the good _____. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the _____ shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I _____ down my _____ for the sheep. ([10:11-15](#))

As Jesus continued talk of laying down his life and even taking it up again, there was a division among the Jews over his words. And what could those who believed use as proof that Jesus should be listened to? The signs! “Can a demon _____ the eyes of the blind?” ([10:21](#)). In fact, as Jesus unashamedly taught that he and the Father are “_____” ([10:30](#)), that’s the powerful proof he continued to use: “The works that I do in my Father’s name bear _____ about me” ([10:25](#)). Let’s talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Looking back at **10:1**, why would Jesus describe thieves and robbers who try to climb in the sheepfold? Who might these thieves and robbers be in his illustration?
- What's the power of Jesus describing himself as "the door of the sheep" (**10:7**)?
- In your own words, what does Jesus want for his sheep according to **10:10**? What is this "abundant" life? What's it look like? Is it really available to anyone? If so, how?
- Beyond "the bread of life," "the light of the world," and "the door of the sheep," Jesus also describes himself as "the good shepherd" (**10:11**). What are we learning from these "I am" statements about Jesus' authority and heart?
- Jesus seems to be revealing something very important in **10:16**. What do we need to understand?
- What is Jesus alluding to in **10:17-18**? What does this have to do with being "the door of the sheep" and "the good shepherd"?
- When Jesus said in **10:30**, "I and the Father are one," the Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Why? What was Jesus really saying with those words?
- What sort of argument is Jesus making in **10:37-38**?
- What about us this week? How can we come to be "among" Jesus' sheep (**10:26**)? What will it look like, practically speaking, for Jesus to be my "good shepherd"?