



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. How have you worked out the answer to 'What Child is This?' in your life?
2. How has Jesus been a Good Shepherd in your life? (Consider His provision, His protection, His blessing, etc.)
3. Read Matthew 18:10-14 and John 21:15-17. In what way do you see these passages applying to you?
4. Take some time to pray for those you know who are still asking, 'What Child is This?'.

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Take some time to read together John 10:1-18. Discuss as a family how Jesus is a Good Shepherd to his people and how we as people ought to respond to Him as our Shepherd.
2. Consider the parable of the Lost Sheep in Matthew 18:10-14. Are there 'lost sheep' that you know? How can you pray for them today?
3. Take some time pray together.



Today's Service

December 3rd, 2017

Series: What Child is This?

Part 1: Awake

Pastor Brian Stanley



Luke 2:8-18 (NLT) ⁸That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹²And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
¹⁵When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
¹⁶They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,

What child is this? He is a _____.

John 10:11 (NLT) ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

SHEPHERDS IN SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:2b, Genesis 24:35, Job 42:12

John 10:14-16 (NLT) ¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd."

THE SHEPHERD KING: 1 Samuel 16:1, 1 Samuel 16:10-13, 1 Samuel 17:13-15

What child is this? He is a shepherd and _____ just as his ancestor _____.

Psalms 23:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

What Child Is This? He is the one who will _____ for and _____ all who are under His care.

John 10:1-10 (NLT) ¹ "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." ⁶ Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, ⁷ so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

What Child Is This? He is the one who will _____ for and _____ all who are under His care.

Matthew 18:10-14 (NLT) ¹⁰ "Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father. ¹² "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away! ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish.

What child is this? He is the one who left all the riches and comfort of heaven to _____ for the ones who went _____.

Isaiah 40:11 (NLT) ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

PETER'S COMMISSION: John 21:15-17

