



THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

5-Day Devotional: Hearing and Following the Good Shepherd

Based on John 10:1–21

Day 1: Do You Know His Voice?

Scripture Reading

John 10:3–4

“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 follow him, for they know his voice.”

Devotional

Jesus describes His people as sheep who know the voice of their shepherd. This is a deeply personal image. He does not merely call out to a crowd; He calls His own sheep **by name**.

There are many voices around us every day. Some are loud and obvious. Others are subtle. The world tells us who we should be, what we should want, what we should fear, and what will make us happy. Sin has a voice. Anxiety has a voice. Pride has a voice. Shame has a voice. Comfort and success have voices too.

But Jesus says His sheep know **His** voice.

Knowing His voice does not usually happen by accident. It comes through time with Him, through His Word, through prayer, through obedience, and through walking with Him. The more familiar we become with Scripture, the more easily we can recognize what sounds like Jesus and what does not.

The voice of Jesus will never contradict the Word of God. His voice calls us toward truth, repentance, faith, holiness, trust, worship, and life. Other voices may promise freedom but lead to slavery. They may promise peace but stir anxiety. They may promise identity but leave us empty.



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The Good Shepherd still speaks. The question is: are we listening?

Reflection Questions

What voices have been loudest in your life lately?
Are those voices leading you closer to Jesus or farther from Him?
How can you become more familiar with the voice of Christ this week?

Application

Spend 10 minutes today reading John 10:1–6 slowly. As you read, ask:
“Jesus, what are You calling me to hear, believe, or obey?”

Prayer

Jesus, Good Shepherd, teach me to know Your voice. Quiet the voices that compete for my heart. Help me recognize what is true and reject what leads me away from You. Call me again by name, and give me the faith to follow. Amen.

Day 2: The Only Door

Scripture Reading

John 10:7–9

“So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep... I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.’”

Devotional

Jesus does not say, “I am one door among many.” He says, **“I am the door.”**



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That is a bold and exclusive claim. Jesus is saying that salvation, safety, freedom, and spiritual life are found in Him alone. There are not many entrances into the family of God. There is one way, one Savior, one door.

This confronts our culture, but it also confronts our hearts. We may say we believe Jesus is the door, but still try to enter through other means. We may lean on our morality, religious activity, church attendance, family background, knowledge, or good intentions.

But none of those things can save us.

Jesus alone is the door.

The beautiful news is that the door is open. Jesus invites sinners, outcasts, wanderers, the weary, and the broken to come through Him. He does not say, "Clean yourself up and then enter." He says, "Enter by Me and be saved."

And for those who enter through Christ, there is more than survival. Jesus says His sheep will "find pasture." That means provision, rest, nourishment, and care for the soul.

Only Jesus can save you. Only Jesus can satisfy you.

Reflection Questions

Why is it hard for people to accept that Jesus is the only way to God?
Are there ways you subtly try to rely on your own goodness or effort instead of Christ?
What does it mean for your soul to "find pasture" in Jesus?

Application

Write down this sentence and complete it honestly:

"I am tempted to look for salvation, security, or worth in _____ instead of Jesus."

Then pray over that area and surrender it to Him.

Prayer

Jesus, You are the door. Forgive me for looking for life, salvation, or identity anywhere else. Thank You that through You I am saved, welcomed, and cared for. Help me rest in You alone. Amen.



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Day 3: Abundant Life, Not Empty Promises

Scripture Reading

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Devotional

Many things promise life.

Money promises security. Pleasure promises satisfaction. Achievement promises identity. Approval promises worth. Control promises peace. Sin promises freedom.

But Jesus tells us the truth: anything that draws us away from Him will eventually steal, kill, and destroy.

That does not mean every temptation looks destructive at first. Often, the things that harm us most appear attractive, reasonable, and even comforting. The thief does not announce his intentions. False shepherds do not tell you they are leading you toward death. Sin rarely shows you the bill before asking you to buy in.

But Jesus is different.

He does not come to take life from us. He comes to give life to us.

And not just eternal life in the future, though that is certainly included. Jesus gives abundant life now—a life rooted in forgiveness, peace with God, freedom from sin’s power, purpose, joy, and communion with Him.

Abundant life does not mean an easy life. It does not mean wealth, comfort, or perfect circumstances. It means having the life of Christ in us. It means being held by the Good Shepherd no matter what valley we walk through.

The question is not just, “What do I believe?” but “Where am I looking for life?”



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Reflection Questions

What things in your life promise satisfaction but often leave you empty?
How have you seen sin “steal, kill, and destroy”?
What does abundant life in Jesus look like in your current season?

Application

Identify one empty promise you have been believing. Replace it with a truth from God’s Word. For example:

Empty promise: “If people approve of me, I’ll be okay.”
Truth: “In Christ, I am fully known and loved by God.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, expose the empty promises I am tempted to believe. Help me see where sin leads and where You lead. Thank You for coming to give me life abundantly. Teach me to seek life in You alone. Amen.

Day 4: The Shepherd Who Lays Down His Life

Scripture Reading

John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Devotional

Jesus is not a distant shepherd. He is not careless, selfish, or temporary. He is the **Good Shepherd**.



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In John 10, Jesus contrasts Himself with hired hands. A hired hand runs when danger comes because the sheep do not belong to him. But Jesus does not run from the wolf. He does not abandon His sheep. He lays down His life for them.

This is the heart of the gospel.

In the Old Testament sacrificial system, sheep were laid down as sacrifices. But in Jesus, the Shepherd lays Himself down for the sheep. The innocent One dies for the guilty. The holy One dies for sinners. The Shepherd gives His life so the sheep may live.

This means you are not loved casually. You are not protected half-heartedly. You are not saved reluctantly.

Jesus willingly laid down His life for His people.

When we doubt His love, we look to the cross. When we wonder if He will stay with us, we look to the cross. When shame says we are too far gone, we look to the cross. The Good Shepherd has proven His love in blood.

You can trust a Shepherd like that.

Reflection Questions

What does it reveal about Jesus that He calls Himself the Good Shepherd?

Where are you tempted to doubt His care or protection?

How does the cross prove that Jesus will not abandon His sheep?

Application

Take a few minutes today to read John 10:11–15 and then thank Jesus specifically for laying down His life for you.

You might pray:

“Jesus, thank You for dying for me when I could not save myself.”

Prayer

Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for Your sheep. Thank You for not running from danger but facing death in my place. Help me trust Your love, rest in Your sacrifice, and follow You with worship. Amen.



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Day 5: Stop Shepherding Yourself

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23:1-3

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."

Devotional

One of the challenges from the sermon was to "quiet the noises" and remember what it means to be a sheep.

That is not always easy.

Many of us live as if we are our own shepherds. We manage, strive, protect, plan, worry, control, and carry burdens we were never meant to carry. We try to lead ourselves into peace, provide for ourselves emotionally and spiritually, and defend ourselves from every possible danger.

But sheep are not meant to shepherd themselves.

Psalm 23 begins with a simple but life-changing confession:

"The Lord is my shepherd."

If the Lord is your shepherd, you are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not responsible for being your own savior. You do not have to know every step ahead. You are called to listen, trust, and follow.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads His sheep. Sometimes He leads us to green pastures. Sometimes He leads us beside still waters. Sometimes He leads us through dark valleys. But He always leads with wisdom, love, and presence.

To follow Jesus means surrendering the illusion of control. It means confessing, "I am not the shepherd. He is."

That is not weakness. That is worship.



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Reflection Questions

In what area of life are you trying to shepherd yourself?
What burdens are you carrying that Jesus has not asked you to carry alone?
What would it look like this week to trust Jesus as your Shepherd?

Application

Pray through Psalm 23 today. Personalize it line by line.

Example:

“Lord, You are my Shepherd in my family.”

“Lord, You are my Shepherd in my finances.”

“Lord, You are my Shepherd in my future.”

“Lord, restore my soul.”

Prayer

Jesus, I confess that I often try to shepherd myself. I strive, worry, and control instead of trusting You. Lead me back to rest. Teach me to be Your sheep, to hear Your voice, and to follow where You lead. You are my Good Shepherd. Amen.

Closing Reflection for the Week

Jesus is calling His sheep to hear His voice, enter through Him, receive abundant life, trust His sacrifice, and rest under His shepherding care.

Ask yourself:

Am I listening to the voice of Jesus?

Have I entered through Him as the only door?

Am I seeking abundant life in Him or somewhere else?

Do I believe He laid down His life for me?

Am I resting as a sheep under the care of the Good Shepherd?



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Final Prayer

Good Shepherd, help me hear Your voice above every other voice. Keep me close to You. Lead me in truth, protect me from lies, and teach me to follow with faith and worship. Amen.

Hearing the Voice of the Good Shepherd

A Sermon Blog on John 10:1–21

There are a lot of voices in the world.

Voices telling us who we are. Voices telling us what we need. Voices promising happiness, security, identity, and freedom. Voices of culture, fear, sin, success, comfort, religion, and self-reliance. Some voices are obvious. Others are subtle. But all of them are competing for the attention and affection of our hearts.

In John 10, Jesus gives us a picture that is both simple and deeply powerful: sheep and a shepherd.

And the central question becomes this:

Do you know the voice of Jesus?

The Context: Worship or Rejection

John 10 does not begin a brand-new conversation. It continues directly from John 9, where Jesus heals a man who had been blind from birth.

You would expect the religious leaders to rejoice. A man who had spent his whole life in darkness can now see. But instead of celebration, there is conflict. The Pharisees investigate, question, accuse, and eventually cast the man out.

Their response to Jesus is shocking:

“We know that this man is a sinner.”
— John 9:24



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They look at Jesus—the healer, the Savior, the Son of God—and call Him a sinner.

But the healed man responds very differently. When Jesus finds him and reveals Himself to him, the man says:

“Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.
— John 9:38

That is the dividing line in John’s Gospel. Some see Jesus and worship. Others see Jesus and reject Him.

John wrote his Gospel so that we would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we would have life in His name. So the question is not merely, “Do you know about Jesus?” The question is:

Will you worship Him?

1. Voices: Do You Know His Voice?

Jesus begins John 10 with an image His listeners would have understood well:

“The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”
— John 10:3

In that culture, shepherds would often bring their sheep into a communal sheepfold at night. Multiple flocks would be together in one place. In the morning, each shepherd would call out, and his sheep would recognize his voice and follow him.

The sheep knew their shepherd.

Jesus uses this picture to contrast Himself with the false shepherds of Israel—the religious leaders who had burdened people rather than cared for them. They had not led people into life. They had not rejoiced when a blind man received sight. They had cast him out.

But Jesus is the true Shepherd. He calls His sheep by name. He leads them out. He goes before them. And His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.

That raises an important question for us:



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Are we familiar with the voice of Jesus?

We become familiar with His voice through His Word. Jesus will never speak in a way that contradicts Scripture. His voice calls us toward truth, repentance, faith, holiness, worship, and life.

But the world is loud. Other voices call too. They may promise life, but they cannot give it. They may sound comforting, but they cannot save. They may scratch the itch of our ears, but they cannot shepherd our souls.

The sheep of Jesus learn to say, “That is not the voice of my Shepherd.”

2. Choices: Will You Enter Through the Door?

Jesus then shifts the image slightly and says:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”
— John 10:7

And again:

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”
— John 10:9

Jesus does not say He is *a* door. He says He is *the* door.

That is an exclusive claim. Jesus is saying there is only one entrance into salvation, only one way into the family of God, only one path to eternal life.

This is not always easy for our world to hear. Many prefer the idea that there are many roads to God, many doors, many paths up the same mountain. But Jesus does not leave that option open.

Later in John’s Gospel, He says:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
— John 14:6



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And Acts 4:12 says:

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Jesus alone is the door.

But this truth is not only exclusive—it is also beautiful. The door is open. Jesus invites sinners to come through Him and be saved. He promises safety, freedom, provision, and pasture.

To enter through Jesus means we stop trusting in our own goodness, our religious performance, our morality, our background, or our effort. We come to God through Christ alone.

There are countless “doors” people walk through in life looking for identity, salvation, meaning, or security. But only one door leads to life.

His name is Jesus.

3. Abundant Life: What Jesus Came to Give

One of the most well-known verses in John 10 is verse 10:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

— John 10:10

This verse is often quoted, and rightly so. But in context, Jesus is contrasting His shepherding with false shepherds—those who claim to lead but actually destroy.

False shepherds promise life but bring death. Sin does the same thing. It offers freedom but enslaves. It offers satisfaction but leaves us empty. It offers identity but produces shame. It offers peace but creates fear.

Jesus is different.

He comes to give life.



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Not a shallow life. Not merely an easier life. Not a life free from suffering or hardship. Jesus gives abundant life—life with God, life under His care, life rooted in forgiveness, salvation, freedom, and eternal hope.

The abundant life Jesus gives is not found outside of His shepherding. It is found by hearing His voice, entering through Him, and following where He leads.

4. Quiet the Noises: Remember You Are a Sheep

Then Jesus gives one of the most comforting declarations in all of Scripture:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
— John 10:11

This is the heart of the gospel.

In the Old Testament, sheep were often laid down as sacrifices. But here, the Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Jesus is not like a hired hand who runs when danger comes. He does not abandon His sheep. He does not flee from the wolf. He stands in the gap. He gives Himself.

At the cross, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His people. He faces sin, death, judgment, and wrath so that His sheep may live.

That means we can trust Him.

Many of us spend our lives trying to shepherd ourselves. We manage, plan, worry, strive, control, and protect. We carry burdens we were never meant to carry. We live as if everything depends on us.

But John 10 invites us to quiet the noises and remember:

We are sheep. Jesus is the Shepherd.

That is not weakness. That is worship.

A sheep is not called to lead itself into green pastures. A sheep is called to listen to the shepherd and follow.

Jesus knows His own. His own know Him. He lays down His life for them. He brings them into one flock under one Shepherd.



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Worship or Rejection

At the end of this section, the people are divided over Jesus.

Some say:

“He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?”
— John 10:20

Others say:

“These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”
— John 10:21

The words of Jesus always bring a response.

Some reject Him. Some worship Him.

The same is true today.

Jesus says He is the Shepherd. He says He is the Door. He says He gives abundant life. He says He lays down His life and takes it up again.

Those are not mild claims. They are the claims of the Son of God.

So the question for us is clear:

Will we hear His voice?

Will we enter through Him?

Will we stop trying to shepherd ourselves?

Will we worship Jesus?

Questions for Reflection

What voices are currently competing for your attention and trust?
How are you growing in your ability to recognize the voice of Jesus?



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Are there “doors” you are tempted to walk through for security, identity, or salvation besides Christ?

What does abundant life in Jesus look like in your current season?

Where are you trying to shepherd yourself instead of trusting the Good Shepherd?

Final Encouragement

Jesus is not a distant Savior. He is the Good Shepherd.

He calls His sheep by name.

He leads them out.

He goes before them.

He protects them.

He feeds them.

He gives them life.

And He lays down His life for them.

So listen for His voice.

Enter through the Door.

Rest under the care of the Good Shepherd.

And worship Him.