

“Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

(John 10:1-3, CSB)

When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't know the voice of strangers."

(John 10:4-5, CSB)

Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them.

(John 10:6-8, CSB)

I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

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

(John 10:9-11, CSB)

¹² The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about the sheep.

(John 10:12-13, CSB)

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again.

(John 10:14-17, CSB)

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

(John 10:18, CSB)

Characters in the Parable:

The Shepherd

The Gatekeeper

The Sheep

The Thieves

The Hired Hands

Qualities of the Good Shepherd:

Voice

Giver of Life

Sacrificial Love

Intimacy - “Know”

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
2. How can you hear - and recognize - the voice of the Good Shepherd?
3. What are ways you can point people to the Good Shepherd?