

LIFE GROUP LESSON

John the Life-Giving Gospel • Week of June 14

Introduction

It is traumatizing to walk into your house or apartment and sense that someone has been in your home. You think: *What do I do? Where do I go? Where am I safe?* Perhaps even more disturbing is to realize the intrusion was a family member violating your space by viciously taking something of value out of your drawer or closet. To be robbed of possessions is devastating; but what about relational trauma when someone you trust betrays that trust ... and walks all over you? There are no words for this level of pain and violation.

Read John 10:1-21

In the middle east, a wilderness shepherd builds a sheepfold – a low stoned wall with briars atop – to keep his sheep safe from dangerous predators at night. This pen has an opening in the wall, like a gate, the sheep enter as they hear and recognize the shepherd's voice. As the sheep enter the sheepfold through the gate, the shepherd inspects each one for any cuts, wounds, lacerations, or infection. Once all the sheep are safely inside, the shepherd himself lays across the gate as 'the door' of watchful protection.

- > A good shepherd has intimate knowledge of each sheep. He leads them; he never drives them. And because they recognize their shepherd's voice, each sheep trusts his leadership and follows. Do you know Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Do you recognize his voice? If so, in what ways is he helping you develop ears for his voice?
- > Are you *more aware* or *less aware* of his voice (his leading) now than you were when you first began to follow him?
- > In what ways is Jesus demonstrating his faithfulness, love, and protection over you?

Jesus says: "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life" (v10). The NKJV version says: *I have come that they may have life!* The life Jesus speaks of in this context is *zoe*, a life full of Jesus!... a life infused with Christ's very presence marked by depth, purpose and calling. Being on-mission with Christ is a journey with adventure, peace, joy (all the fruit of the Spirit) and yes, challenges as well.

- > Have you experienced the *zoe* Jesus speaks of? If so, how would you explain his words to someone searching for meaning and purpose?

> In what ways has the 'thief' – like a dangerous shepherd – attempted to steal your joy ... kill the spirit of God's call over your life ... destroy your heart and home?

> What does **Ezekiel 34:1-10** say about bad shepherds?

Ezekiel declares God's judgment against corrupt leaders who have been like hired hands. He goes on to declare:

"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search and find my sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day" (Ezekiel 34:11-12).

Jesus personally fulfills this text as he steps onto the scene, and both declares and lives his mission in the world. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields'" (Matthew 9:36-38). Jesus lives into his own prayer request, as he sends out the twelve apostles, arming them with his authority "to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness" (Matthew 10:1).

- > What do the following references tell us about the Good Shepherd? (share at least one take-away from each passage)

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:11

Read John 10:22-42

"Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father" (v38). Take a moment and reflect upon Jesus' work in your life. Ask him to help you see his hand at work and to give you a heart that recognizes his voice. To *know* denotes deep intimacy. Do you know Jesus personally? ... or do you know *of* Jesus?

In Closing

If you resonate with the pain/loss spoken of in the opening, hear the Lord say to you today:

_____ (your name), I know the devastation of being betrayed and the deep pain of losing persons you love. But I am your Redeemer. I can heal all the broken places of your heart. Hear me, I love you. My love for you is enduring. I have the authority to take back all the enemy has stolen from you. Trust me. My love for you is deep and safe. I will never leave you or forsake you. I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for the sheep... this includes you _____ my child.

The psalmist said: “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging for bread” (Psalm 37:25).

Close in a time of prayer. Invite Jesus into your heart and ask him to be your Lord and Savior. Thank him for loving you, and praise him for his blessings and the many prayers he has answered. Worship him as you listen to “Good Plans” by Red Rocks Worship.



Text: John 10

PLAIN TRUTH:

Though _____ comes to _____, not one person _____ to Jesus as Lord can be _____ from the arms of the _____ Christ.

1. The thief comes to _____, _____, and _____.

2. Jesus has come to give you an _____ and _____ life!

One Year Bible Reading

June 14: 1 Kings 12:20-13:34, Acts 9:26-43, Psalm 132:1-18, Proverbs 17:6

June 15: 1 Kings 14:1-15:24, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 133:1-3, Proverbs 17:7-8

June 16: 1 Kings 15:25-17:24, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 17:9-11

June 17: 1 Kings 18:1-46, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 17:12-13

June 18: 1 Kings 19:1-21, Acts 12:1-23, Psalm 136:1-26, Proverbs 17:14-15

June 19: 1 Kings 20:1-21:29, Acts 12:24-13:15, Psalm 137:1-9, Proverbs 17:16

June 20: 1 Kings 22:1-53, Acts 13:16-41, Psalm 138:1-8, Proverbs 17:17-18

June 14, 2026