

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 206: THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:1-21

Jesus said, "It is certainly true that when a man enters the sheep pen, he should use the gate. If he climbs in some other way, he is a robber. He is trying to steal the sheep. But the man who takes care of the sheep enters through the gate. He is the shepherd. The man who guards the gate (the door keeper) opens the gate for the shepherd. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out. He brings all of his sheep out. Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. The sheep follow him, because they know his voice. But sheep will never follow someone they don't know. They will run away from him, because they don't know his voice." Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what it meant. So Jesus said again, "I assure you, I am the gate for the sheep. All those who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will be able to come in and go out. They will find everything they need. A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came to give life--life that is full and good. "I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The worker who is paid to keep the sheep is different from the shepherd. The paid worker does not own the sheep. So when he sees a wolf coming, he runs away and leaves the sheep alone. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. The man runs away because he is only a paid worker. He does not really care for the sheep. "I am the shepherd who cares for the sheep. I know my sheep just as the Father knows me. And my sheep know me just as I know the Father. I give my life for these sheep. I have other sheep too. They are not in this flock here. I must lead them also. They will listen to my voice. In the future there will be one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me because I give my life. I give my life so that I can get it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give my own life freely. I have the right to give my life, and I have the right to get it back again. This is what the Father told me." Again the Jews were divided over what Jesus was saying. Many of them said, "A demon has come into him and made him crazy. Why listen to him?" But others said, "These aren't the words of someone controlled by a demon. A demon cannot heal the eyes of a blind man."

206. THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:1-21



"Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.'" *John 10:11*

206. THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:1-21

MEMORY VERSE:

"I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by my own." JOHN 10:14

Review Questions

True or False

1. Jesus said that when a man enters the sheep pen, he should use the gate. Any man who climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber.
2. Jesus said that whoever enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
3. Jesus said that the door keeper opens the door for the shepherd, and the sheep hear the shepherd's voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, but they do not follow him.
4. When he brings out his own sheep, he goes in front of them, and the sheep do not follow him, because they do not know his voice.
5. Jesus told them, "I assure you, I am the gate for the sheep."

Questions

1. When Jesus said that He was the gate, what happens to whoever enters by Him? Will they be saved?
2. Jesus also said He was the Good Shepherd. What does the Good Shepherd give for the sheep? Is it His life?
3. Does the Good Shepherd know His sheep? Do the sheep know the Good Shepherd?
4. What does the paid worker do when he sees a wolf coming for the sheep?
5. Does the Good Shepherd know His sheep just like the Father (God) knows Him (Jesus)?
6. In the future, how many flocks will there be? And how many shepherds will there be? One?

Lesson 206 Activity

The Animal Game

Have your class name some animals that are ferocious and have them describe what it is about these animals that makes them dangerous. Write each animal's name on the chalkboard under the heading "Ferocious."

Next, have your class name some animals that are helpless and have them describe what these animals do to protect themselves.

For example, turtles have a shell, a cow is large and has horns, etc. Write each animal name on the chalkboard under the heading "Helpless."

Make sure that sheep are listed under the "Helpless" category.

Explain to your class that sheep have no means of protection and that they heard a story that Jesus told about sheep and a shepherd, and how the sheep needed a good shepherd to protect them and keep them safe.

OPTIONS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, OR IF YOU HAVE TIME

Play animal charades. Have the children act out the characteristics of animals, or have them make animal sounds. Point out the defense or lack of defense each animal has. Be sure to point out the defenselessness of sheep.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus being our Good Shepherd. If there are any children who have not received Jesus as their Savior, give them an opportunity to do so.