



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for February 4, 2007  
Released on January 31, 2007**

**"Jesus: The Good Shepherd"**

**GOLDEN TEXT-***"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11).

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** John 10:1-5, 7-18

**John 10:1-5, 7-18**

**He Calls His Sheep by Name**

**1**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

**2**But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

**3**To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

**4**And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

**5**And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

**7**Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

**8**All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

**9**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**10**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

**11**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**12**But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

**13**The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

**14**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

**15**As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**16**And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

**17**Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

**18**No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

Shepherds were common in Israel in the time of Jesus, and shepherds also played a notable part in Israel's history. There was, notably, King David, who spent his youth, and probably composed many of his psalms, as a shepherd boy.

Jesus compared Himself with a good shepherd, who genuinely cares for his flock. He contrasted Himself with the thief, who comes with the deliberate purpose of destroying the sheep, and also with the hireling, who cares for the sheep only for the pay he will receive.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that Jesus cares for His people.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Jesus cares for His people as a good shepherd cares for his sheep.
2. Jesus was willing to give His life for us.
3. Those who belong to Jesus obey His voice.

### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture of a shepherd.

For Helping to Remember, you will need a piece of red construction paper for each student, as well as scissors (round edge for safety) and markers. You should also be prepared to add this week's description of Jesus, "***The Good Shepherd***," to the chart you have been developing.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Have you ever heard of people who have the job of caring for animals? (Children may mention zookeepers, veterinarians, horse trainers, or others.) In Bible times people had many sheep. The sheep were very valuable and were used for many different purposes. Someone had to stay with them to protect them from wild animals and other dangers that might hurt them. Someone had to show them where to eat and sleep. The person who did this was called a shepherd.

Jesus often compared His work with people to the work of a shepherd with his sheep. (Teacher, show picture of a shepherd.)

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

At night the sheep slept in a protected area called a sheepfold. Jesus said that robbers might try to come over the fence or get in some other way. The shepherd would always come in by the door.

There was only one shepherd. The sheep knew his voice and would follow him. If a stranger called, they would run away, but they would always follow the voice of their shepherd. They trusted their shepherd. They knew he cared for them.

Jesus said He was like the door where the sheep came into the protected place to sleep. Just as there was only one door to the sheepfold, so Jesus is the only way to be saved. All the sheep that came in by the door were safe. All who come to Jesus as their Saviour will be saved from sin.

Sheep have enemies. There are thieves that want to steal them, kill them, and destroy them. Jesus did not come to hurt us. He came to give us abundant life.

Jesus is also like the good shepherd who cares so much for his sheep that he is willing to die to save them from danger. Jesus died for us on the cross, and He rose again from the dead.

Jesus is not like a shepherd who is only working for money. Jesus really cares about His sheep, that is, His people. He wants the best for them.

Jesus said He also had other sheep, and He had to bring them too into the protected place—the sheepfold. All over the world, Jesus has people who will believe in Him when we tell them the good news of His love.

Jesus wants all His sheep to be one. There is only one Shepherd, so there should be only one flock of sheep. All God's children are members of one family. Everyone who believes in Jesus belongs to Jesus and to His family. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. This is why we should love all those who love Jesus and get along with our believing brothers and sisters. We should have one heart and mind, giving praise to our good Shepherd.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

Do you know that you could help bring Jesus' other sheep into His sheepfold?

Would it not be wonderful if you invited a neighbor to come to Sunday school, and then that person received Jesus as his Saviour? Would it not be wonderful if you prayed for children in Sudan, and through your prayers a little Sudanese girl came to Christ? She would be your new sister!

What will you do to help Jesus gather His other sheep this week? (Teacher, let the children respond. Pray that they will carry out their ideas.)

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Let the students make a cross by folding the construction paper in two lengthwise and then cutting out a square from the top corner and a rectangle from the bottom corner. Open the paper to reveal a cross. Let the students print on it "**Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd.**"

Add the title "**The Good Shepherd**" to the chart you have been developing week by week showing descriptions of Jesus.

## EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

**"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).**

Jesus said He is the good Shepherd. He is not just one of the many good shepherds. He is the only one. He is not a bad shepherd who would hurt the sheep or an uncaring one who pays no attention to the sheep. He takes very good care of the sheep of His flock. The good Shepherd cares so much for the sheep that He would even give up His own life to save them from danger. Jesus was willing, and He did die on the cross to save us.

### LESSON ACTIVITY:

#### THE GOOD SHEPHERD (John 10:1-5, 7-18)

##### **FILL IN THE BLANK:**

1. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the \_\_\_\_\_, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

**JOHN 10:1**

##### **TRUE OR FALSE:**

2. "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." **JOHN 10:2**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

3. "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." **JOHN 10:3**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

##### **FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

4. "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 10:4**

5. "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the \_\_\_\_\_.'" **JOHN 10:7**

##### **TRUE OR FALSE:**

6. "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**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

##### **FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

7. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His \_\_\_\_\_ for the sheep." **JOHN 10:11**

8. "I am the good shepherd; and I \_\_\_\_\_ My sheep, and am \_\_\_\_\_ by My own." **JOHN 10:14**

9. "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 10:15**

#### Lesson Summarized By:

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