

# ***“HE DWELT AMONG US”***

## **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 11 Chapter 10**

***“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”  
John 10:14***

As we start our study of **John, chapter 10**, we must view it in context as a continuation of the events of **chapter 9**. Last week we read about a man who had lived his entire life in physical blindness. His only source of livelihood was to beg. And yet when he was taken to the religious leaders, who viewed themselves as the shepherds of God’s flock, they had no care for him as a person. They experienced no thankfulness for his restored condition. In fact, they were disturbed and cast him out of fellowship. His healing made them uncomfortable. How thankful we should be that even though people will often let us down, the Lord loves us and *is* concerned about our needs. Stop and pray as you begin that you will learn to view the Lord as David did when he confidently said: *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”*

**Psalm 23:1**

### **DAY #1**

Read **John, chapter 10** all the way through. Now read **John 10:1-21**, and record the important facts. You do not need to use complete sentences. You may also group several verses together to capture a complete thought, action or statement. Determine a title for this section.

Title:

**DAY #2** **Read John 10:1-13** \*Pray before you start your lesson each day.\*

### **Shepherding in Israel**

Shepherding in the land of Israel has not changed much since the time of Jesus. **John 10:1-5** describes a typical morning scene. Often several flocks of sheep are kept together in a stone walled enclosure. It is guarded at night by a doorkeeper to prevent thieves or predators from entering. In the morning, the shepherd stands at the entrance and calls his sheep, often calling them by name. They recognize his voice and come to him. The sheep then follow him as he leads them out to the fields to pasture where they will stay for weeks at a time. At night, the shepherd leads his flock into a small stone enclosure built for this purpose out in the fields. There are no doors, therefore he lays at the entrance to guard against intruders, thereby actually becoming the door.

- 1) Read **John 10:3** and **4**. What a wonderful description of the personal relationship we can have with Jesus! Explain each of the following elements of the relationship He describes in these verses. What does each mean to you personally and what is your role in response?
  - A. The sheep *hear* His voice
  - B. He calls His own sheep by name
  - C. He leads them out, He goes before them
  - D. The sheep follow Him, for they know His voice
  - E. They won't follow a stranger, they flee from him

### **God's Leadership Training Program**

Many of the great men of the Old Testament were shepherds first. Then God called them into a position of leading His people (e.g. Abraham, Moses and David). Possibly the skills they learned and the long hours out in the open fields with no one to talk to but God and the sheep were the perfect training ground for godly leadership.

- 2) The fact that there have always been, and always will be, false shepherds is evident as we read this passage. Describe what the Lord has to say about those who are not appointed by Him and who do not have His same care and concern.

	<b>Actions and traits of false shepherds</b>	<b>How their actions affect the sheep</b>
A. <b>John 10:10</b>		
B. <b>John 10:12-13</b>		
C. <b>Ezekiel 34:4-6</b>		

**DAY #3 WELL CARED FOR SHEEP**

- 1) Read **John 10:10**. Write out the definition of the word “abundant” from the dictionary.
  - A. Using the definition above, describe the quality and quantity of life that the Lord has in mind for you. Give as many practical applications as you can.
  - B. \*Personal\* Are you experiencing less than what the Lord has for you in your life? Why do you think this is? Pause and pray that the Lord will reveal to you if you’ve strayed from His fold. Could it be that you think the grass is greener in the pastures (and pleasures) of “this world?” Have you heard His voice lately? Have you listened? Have you followed? Will you?
  
- 2) \*MEMORY VERSE\* Write out **John 10:10b** on a 3x5 index card. Commit this comforting and encouraging verse to memory.
  
- 3) Read **John 10:11, 17** and **18**. There was a price to pay for the life that Jesus provides for us. \*Quote\* *“Five times in this chapter Jesus told of the sacrificial nature of His death. He did not die as a martyr, killed by men; He died as a substitute, willingly laying down His life for us.”* Warren W. Wiersbe. Actions speak louder than words. What does this say *to you*?
  
- 4) *“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”* **John 10:14** This verse speaks volumes.
  - A. Does this mean that the Lord understands who we are uniquely and knows all of our individual needs? In **Psalms 23** David confirmed that the Lord’s care was detailed and thorough. What need do you have? What comfort do you receive knowing that the Lord knows? Share your heart.

B. Can you say that you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of our Lord? Read **Philippians 3:7-10** and explain the importance placed on knowing the Savior. What importance do you place on this?

5) Jesus told them, “*Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*” Jews and Gentiles are now included in God’s flock. No physical trait should separate us from God or each other. What unites us according to this scripture? What blesses you about this and why?

#### **DAY #4**

Read **John 10:22-42**. Record the important facts from this last section of **chapter 10**. Remember to not get too detailed. Just record the important main facts.

Title:

#### **DAY #5**

##### **Feast of Dedication (John 10:22)**

Today we know this Jewish Holiday as Hanukkah. It is an eight day feast in late November or December. From 176-164 B.C. the Syrians profaned the Temple by setting up an idol on the altar. In 164 B.C. Judas Maccabeus drove out the Syrians, built a new altar, and rededicated the Temple. The feast of Dedication commemorates the cleansing of the Temple and the altar.

- 1) Notice the intense atmosphere of **John 10:24**. The Jews actually surrounded Jesus. It is obvious that they really didn't want to know the answer to the question they posed in **verse 24**. Record the statements of Jesus and the response of the Jewish leaders. Share any insights you gain.

Jesus explains	The Jews react
<p>A. <b>John 10:25</b></p> <p>B. <b>John 10:30</b></p> <p>C. <b>John 10:36</b></p> <p>D. <b>John 10:37-38</b></p>	<p>A. <b>John 10:31</b></p> <p>B. <b>John 10:39</b></p>

*Jesus said, "I and My Father are one." John 10:30*

- 2) Jesus was, is and will always be God. This is a truth that the cults deviate from. Jesus was clear on this, are you? From the verses used above in question one, fix in your mind the points that Jesus used to inform them of and emphasis His deity. Mark your Bible to be ready to share with a cult member if given the opportunity. Add any other scriptures you have learned in the Gospel of John that confirms this important truth.
- 3) **John 10:28-29** mentions "The Hand of Jesus" and "The Hand of the Father." What a safe, strong, secure place to be!
- A. Use these verses to write a statement of comfort to a child who is afraid.
- B. Use the same verses to describe to *yourself* the security you can have as you face the future.

**DAY #6 HE RESTORES MY SOUL**

- 1) This chapter is full of comforting word pictures. Prayerfully go before the Lord as “your Good Shepherd” and ask Him to lead you and guide you as you grow in Him in the areas mentioned in the precious Psalm below. Make notes beside the statements that you desire to claim in your own life.

***Psalm 23***

***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.***

***He makes me to lie down in green pastures;***

***He leads me beside the still waters.***

***He restores my soul;***

***He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.***

***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,***

***I will fear no evil; For You are with me;***

***Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.***

***You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;***

***You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.***

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;***

***And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.***

- 2) What do the things that you have learned in this lesson mean to you? How do they apply to your everyday life? How can they affect the way you view the past, the present and the future? Challenge yourself by writing three questions of encouragement and exhortation to yourself to apply these concepts to you life. You may ask: Will I? How can I? How can I learn to....?

A.

B.

C.