

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 15

Introduction

Have you ever paused to appreciate the fact that God longs for you to know Him intimately? That is the great adventure that is yours as a Christian. The Gospels are abounding with picture analogies for the purpose of revealing who Jesus Christ is and how to come into a personal relationship with Him. He is depicted as the *Light of the world, the Living Water, the Bread of Life, the One and only way to God, and also as the True Shepherd*. This last illustration of the shepherd is one found throughout the Old and New Testament Scriptures; one that would easily be understood by the people of Jesus' day whose work force was comprised of eighty percent shepherds.

It was through Jesus' teaching of the shepherd that the people would come to understand that the scribes and Pharisees were false shepherds who were *thieves* and *robbers*, having no regard for the welfare of the sheep, as seen in the example of the blind man who is ousted from the synagogue. Matthew would speak of these individuals as not only refusing to enter the kingdom of heaven themselves, but also trying their best to keep everyone else out.

Did you know

The word *door* in John 10:7 and 9 is singular, meaning there is only one way—one door—to get to God and that is through Jesus Christ. We see similar analogies in the Old Testament, such as the Tabernacle (the place of God's presence) having only one door—that led to the altar of sacrifice where the blood was shed for the remission of sins. When God commanded Noah to build an ark to carry him and his family along with the animals, the ark had only one door. Like that of the True Shepherd, once everyone was safely inside, it *was the Lord who shut them in* (Genesis 6:16). It was nothing short of obedience to God's direction that saved Noah and his family through the impending floodwaters. It is the words of the True Shepherd who offers safety today to all who will listen and obey: "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).

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind	John 9:1-12	
Conflict with the Pharisees	John 9:13-41	
Jesus the True Shepherd	John 10:1-6	
Jesus the Good Shepherd	John 10:7-16	
The Shepherd Knows His Sheep	John 10:22-30	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 10:10 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned,
this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

3 Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,
but that the works of God would be revealed in him.

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;
the night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva;
and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which is translated, Sent).
So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said,
'Is not this he who sat and begged?'

9 Some said, 'This is he.' Others said, 'He is like him.' He said, 'I am he.'

10 Therefore they said to him, 'How were your eyes opened?'

11 He answered and said, 'A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes
and said to me, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash."

So I went and washed, and I received sight.'

12 Then they said to him, 'Where is He?' He said, 'I do not know.'

John 9:35–41

Conflict with the Pharisees

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him,

‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’

36 He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’

37 And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’

38 Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshipped Him.

39 And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world,
that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.’

40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words,

and said to Him, ‘Are we blind also?’

41 Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin;

but now you say, “We see.” Therefore your sin remains.’

John 10:1–6

Jesus the True Shepherd

1 ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door,

but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice;

and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them;

and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him,

for they do not know the voice of strangers.’

6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand

the things which He spoke to them.

John 10:7–16

Jesus the Good Shepherd

7 Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,

and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep,

sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees;

and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know 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 will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:22–30

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, 'How long do You keep us in doubt?

If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.'

25 Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

30 I and My Father are one.'

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 9:1–12

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 9:35–41

Conflict with the Pharisees

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 10:1–6

Jesus the True Shepherd

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 10:7–16

Jesus the Good Shepherd

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 10:22–30

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 9:1–12

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 9:35–41

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 10:1–6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 10:7–16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 10:22–30

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
