

**BIBLE STORY: JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

John 10:11-16

**Central Thoughts**

- Jesus is like a faithful shepherd who cares for His sheep, providing them with everything that they need for their faith and salvation.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd, unlike any other shepherd, because He dies for the sheep to make them His own and to save them from the devil's power.
- The One who redeemed us is the only one who can protect us from the devil (the wolf) who desires to devour us.
- By His Word, Jesus calls both Jew and Gentile alike to be members of His flock, the Church.

**Discussion Questions**

What is a shepherd?

*A shepherd is a person who takes care of, feeds, and protects a flock of sheep.*

Explain the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep?

*Sheep learn to know and trust the voice of their shepherd. Their shepherd's voice leads them to food and water, and protects them from danger. Sheep are totally dependent upon their shepherd for their safety and well-being.*

Why does Jesus call Himself a shepherd and who are His sheep?

*Jesus calls Himself a shepherd because He cares for us, His sheep, like a shepherd cares for his sheep.*

According to this reading, why does Jesus call Himself "the Good Shepherd"?

*Because He lays down His life for us upon the cross.*

Does a shepherd normally die to protect and save his sheep?

*No, Jesus does more than any earthly shepherd ever has.*

What is a hireling?

*Someone who is hired to tend the sheep, but the sheep do not belong to him. He does not care for them because he does not own them. When he sees the dangerous wolf coming, he runs away from the flock and does not protect them and save them from danger.*

Who does the wolf represent?

*The wolf represents the devil who wants to devour the faith of every Christian and scatter the flock of believers from their Savior, Jesus Christ.*

What makes Jesus different from a hireling?

*He knows us and He loves us; He has redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil; we belong to Him and nothing is more important to Him than our safety and protection from the Evil One.*

How do we know Jesus?

*We know Jesus by faith as the One who loves us, who has redeemed us, who forgives us our sin, and whose Word gives us everything we need.*

What does Jesus teach us when He says that the Father knows Him, that He knows the Father, and that He lays down His life for the sheep?

*Jesus came from the Father and the love that Jesus has for us is the same love that He shares with the Father. The love of God for us is what moved Jesus to lay down His life for us.*

Who are the "other sheep" which are not of "this fold"?

*The sheep who first came to believe in Jesus were from the flock of the children of Israel; the other sheep who were not of that flock are the Gentiles from other nations of people. Jesus came to be the Good Shepherd and faithful Savior of all people.*

How are people of other nations brought into the Church to be one flock with our Good Shepherd?

*Jesus' Word calls people of all nations to repentance and faith in Him and to be members of His flock, the Church.*

### **Meditation on the Bible Story**

Jesus is more than a faithful shepherd who cares for, feeds, and protects His flock. He died for His sheep, saving them from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Because He lays down His life for His sheep, this makes Him the one and only truly Good Shepherd! No one else cares for us like Jesus does. He has redeemed us with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death that we might belong to Him. He is not like a hireling, someone who does not own the sheep. Jesus loves us. He showed His love for us by dying for us. He rescued us from the devil, who is like a wolf desiring to devour us and rob us of the gift of salvation. Just as sheep are completely dependent upon their shepherd for food, drink, and protection, so are we completely dependent upon Jesus. By His Word, He gives us everything that we need to feed and nourish our faith and to keep us safe from the Evil One. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, not only made the Children of Israel members of His flock, the church, but He also calls other sinners from all other nations of the earth to be members of His flock. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives the sins of me and of all believers, and gives us the promise and hope of the resurrection of the body to everlasting life.

### **Prayer on the Bible Story**

Heavenly Father, Jesus is our Good Shepherd who laid down His life upon the cross for our salvation. Help us to know that He loves us and to listen to His voice. Strengthen our faith in Jesus, and by His Word bring many people into the flock of the Holy Christian Church, where He daily and richly cares for us as our faithful and Good Shepherd. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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