**A Sheep in Christ's Care**

**Text - John 10:2-18, 27**

**2**But he who enters by the door is a 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**When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5**A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6**This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. **7**So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8**All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9**I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly. **11**“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. **12**He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. **13***He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. **14**I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, **15**even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd. **17**For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18**No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

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

**Overview**

Sheep have a special relationship with their shepherd that is characterized by dependence (on the part of the sheep) and dependability (on the part of the shepherd). This is a picture of the relationship our Good Shepherd wants to have with us.

**Lesson Theme**

Our Good Shepherd invites us to come to Him for every need we have. Coming from any other source, this promise would be unbelievable, but coming from God Himself, this promise is one that we know will be fulfilled each and every day. To properly nurture our relationship with our Shepherd, we must listen to His voice and follow Him in loving obedience. By doing so, we can more accurately portray His love to others.

**Lesson Objectives**

At the conclusion of the lesson, each student should:

* Know that Jesus Christ is approachable and that His arms are open to all who come.
* Understand their need as sheep to hear and obey the Shepherd's voice.
* Commit to demonstrating God's love and grace by their attitude of love and service for others.

**Teaching Outline**

* Coming to the Shepherd
  + Come for salvation.
  + Come for strength.
* Following the Shepherd
  + Hear His voice.
  + Obey His commands.
* Loving the Shepherd
  + We love Him by obeying.
  + We love Him by loving others.

**Matthew 18:11-14 - 11**For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. **12**“What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? **13**If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. **14**So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

**John 10:7,9 -** So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

**9**I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**John 14:6 6**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

**Acts 4:12 12**And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

**1 John 5:11-12 11**And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12**He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

**Titus 3:5 5**He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

**John 15:5 5**I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**Philippians 3:4-6 4**although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: **5**circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 7**Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8**Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. **9**And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10**Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Isaiah 40:28-31 -** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. **29**He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power. **30**Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, **31**Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

**Luke 22:41-43** **41**And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, **42**saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” **43**Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

**Matthew 11:28-30** **28**“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

II. **Following the Shepherd**

Once we come to our Shepherd, we need to follow Him. Because He is the Creator and Owner of both the sheep and the pasture, we belong to Him.

**Psalm 100:3 3**Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

**Psalm 78:52** But He led forth His own people like sheep And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

**1 Kings 19:11-12 11**So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake. **12**After the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing

**Isaiah 55:8-9 -** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. **9**“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Luke6:46 46**“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

**1 John 1:6-7 6**If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7**but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**John 14:15 15**“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**James 1:22-25 - 22**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23**For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24**for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25**But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

**III. Loving the Shepherd** - Behind each of God's commands is a love that we cannot even begin to comprehend. Simply stated, *"God is love"* (1John 4:8). And God has made us to respond to His love. "We *love him, because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

**Matthew 22:35-38 35**One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, **36**“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” **37**And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is the great and foremost commandment

**1 John 2:5 5**but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

**Matthew 22:39 39**The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

1 **John 4:21 21**And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also

**1 John 3:17 17**But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+JOHN+3%3A17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30597a)]heart [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+JOHN+3%3A17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30597b)]against him, how does the love of God abide in him? After Jesus' Resurrection, He challenged Peter to show his love for Christ. You will remember that Peter had denied Jesus three times and afterward repented with bitter tears. Jesus graciously and lovingly restored Peter to His fellowship and three times asked the question, *"Do you love me?"*

Peter did love Jesus and told Him so. Jesus gave Peter the opportunity and privilege of showing that love by serving others.

**John 21:15-17 15**So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” **16**He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” **17**He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

**Study Questions**

1. As we come to the Shepherd, what is the first and greatest need in our spiritual life?

2. What are two characteristics of the special relationship sheep have with their shepherd?

3. What should be our motive for obeying Christ?

4. How do we demonstrate God's love for us?

5. Has there been a specific time when you have seen the protection of the Good Shepherd in the midst of difficulties in

6. Describe a situation in which you knew what the Lord was telling you to do, but you chose instead to go your own way. In what ways did you find that this stubbornness removed you from the shelter of the Shepherd's protection? Ask the Lord to reveal any current areas of your life which you have not submitted to His direction.

7. Sheep need to learn to listen attentively to the voice of the Shepherd. What are some ways you can increase your ability to hear and recognize the Shepherd's voice?

8. When was the last time you physically demonstrated God's love by helping someone in need? Did you find that your own love for God increased? Explain.

**Memory Verse**

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

(John 10:9)