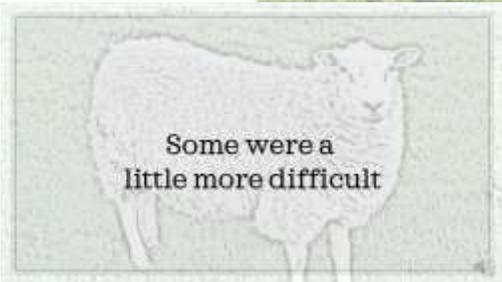


Jesus is the Good Shepherd



Hi Guys I trust you are all doing OK and getting excited for spring to arrive. This month we are looking at more of the things that Jesus said about himself. Last month we discussed how Jesus called himself the Bread of Life. And how that meant the more we take in of Jesus the more fulfilled our life will be. Just like we need bread to eat, we need Jesus and his word to guide us. This month we are talking about two different statements that Jesus made. I am the Good shepherd and I am the gate.

I hope you had a chance to go through the animal identification game. Some of those animals were easy to figure out, but some were a little bit tricky.

Some of those animals were harder to figure out than others.

We often think of sheep as dumb creatures, but that isn't necessarily true, they are smart at figuring out their people and are willing to follow the leader any where it goes. Which is what gets the sheep in trouble, they must have a good leader.

So our story today starts with Jesus walking with his disciples. He did that a lot, everywhere they went they had to travel on foot or by boat, but Jesus used this time to teach the disciples and he never passed up an opportunity to show them a truth about himself.

One day Jesus and his disciples came upon this man who was born blind. He was begging on the side of the road and reached out to Jesus.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd



Jesus saw that the man wanted to be healed, but his disciples were questioning why this man was blind.

Jesus touched the man's eyes and he was healed.



The man was very happy to be healed. The disciples that surrounded Jesus began to ask questions about who had sinned to make this man blind. Jesus told them that neither had sinned, but that sometimes these things happen so that God's power can be seen. And God's power was seen when Jesus healed the man.



Often times travelling with Jesus and his disciples were some Pharisees or religious leaders of the day. They heard what Jesus was saying and were not happy that Jesus talked of himself as God. They continued to question him and accused him of not speaking the truth. Jesus decided to use this as a time to teach the Pharisees a little bit more about himself and scold them a little bit too.



Jesus described himself as the sheep gate. He said that there are people who are wanting to steal his sheep, but jumping the fence and taking them, but Jesus is the door, or the gate of the sheep pen and he watches his sheep and protects them from people who might want to do them harm. Some of the Pharisees picked up on what Jesus was calling them. He was calling them the thieves that might want to steal or harm the sheep. But Jesus reminded them that he was watching out for his people.



Jesus also called himself the Good shepherd. Back in Jesus day, shepherds weren't well liked. They had a very hard job, they were smelly and kind of outcasts in their villages. They had a rough, lonely job, but an important one. They had to care for the masters sheep.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd



We learned in the animal game that sheep know the shepherd's voice, so when the shepherd calls them they will follow and go where he leads. The shepherd trains the sheep to listen for his voice and shows them he cares by providing food and protection for them.



The sheep follow the shepherd and go where he leads. That is the same for us. We listen for God's voice and follow him where he wants us to go.



A good shepherd keeps watch over his sheep and makes sure they are all there with him.



And when one is lost the shepherd will look for the lost sheep and make sure they are safe.



And when the shepherd finds the sheep he will then check on it and



return it to the herd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd



It's great to know that we have a shepherd that takes care of us and makes sure we have the best things that we need. God promises us that he does everything for our good. We can count on his promises



When Jesus got done talking to the Pharisees they were upset and wanted to get rid of him all the more. But Jesus slipped away and went on serving the people he came in contact with.

What does a good shepherd do?

- He takes care of his sheep.
- He will gather them and bring them in.
- He knows his sheep.
- He puts himself before his sheep, sacrificing himself if necessary.
- If one gets lost he goes and finds him



What does a good sheep do?

- It follows the shepherd
- It recognizes his voice.
- It listens for his voice
- It trusts that the shepherd is leading it on the right path.



It stays in protected areas



Jesus is the door!



- He chooses who comes in and out of the sheep pen.
- He opens the gate to lead the sheep to good things.
- He protects the sheep from those who want to kill and destroy them.

Digging In Questions

Choose the best answer

1. So far we have studied two things that Jesus said he was like. Circle the two things from all the options.
A. I am the Light of the World B. I am the Truck C. I am the Bread of Life
D. I am the tree of life.
2. When Jesus said he's the gate, what is he talking about?
A. He keeps thieves from stealing the sheep B. He opens the door to good things
C. He keeps the sheep safe D. All of the above
3. True or False Jesus is called the Good Shepherd.
4. True or False A good sheep listens to the shepherds voice.
5. True or False The good shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep.

Things to think about

1. How is Jesus like a Good Shepherd?
2. Why is it so good to be protected by Jesus our gate?
3. What am I doing to know God's voice better? (circle any ones you want to work on)
Going to church, listening and singing praise songs, reading the Bible, and pray

Answers to the Questions:

1. A & C 2. D 3. True 4. True 5. True

The Good Shepherd

F B L Q C W X R E X A F F B N
E R S D R G F Z H L N E O S Z
C C P H A R I S E E S I L Q G
L C I T E N U F S Y S H L I G
X E E O G P A T Z U O T O S N
K E A O V T H D S M C R W R F
U O C D H G N E T S I L T E N
S E A E S D J S R L B Q V P N
R Y R E N T E R W D I M T E M
R G T C G J W N B D D D D E G
N N S M M W H G R C M D B K O
Z S Y G R E P R S O D C L E O
L G Q N Q V Q L X W G Y Z T D
P S V P X K X D B V M H I A Y
E M A N K X M T M I V F T G S

ENTER
GATE
JESUS
NAME
SHEPHERD

FATHER
GATEKEEPER
LEADS
PHARISEES
THIEF

FOLLOW
GOOD
LISTEN
RECOGNIZE
VOICE



I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd

lays down his life

for the sheep.

John 10:11

