

## The Good Shepherd



*"I am the good shepherd;  
the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

*John 10:11*

## The Good Shepherd

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shepherd

## Story 37: John 10

### The Good Shepherd

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees after He healed the blind man. The Pharisees asked if Jesus was saying that they were blind, too. Jesus began telling them a story about sheep and shepherds.



Jesus said that anyone who enters the sheepfold any way other than the door is a thief and a robber. The one who enters through the **door** is a shepherd. The doorkeeper will open the door for a shepherd.

The sheep know the shepherd's voice, and the shepherd knows his **sheep** by name. The shepherd calls his sheep by name, and they follow him. They run from a stranger because they do not know his voice.

The Pharisees did not understand that Jesus was talking about them so He continued. Jesus said that He was the door of the sheep. Those who came before Him were thieves and robbers. The sheep would not follow them because they did not recognize their voices.

Jesus said that anyone who enters through Him will be saved. These can go in and out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus said that He came so that they could not only have life but also have it abundantly.

Jesus said that He is the good shepherd. The good **shepherd** even lays down His life for the sheep. A hireling, who does not own the sheep, will run away when a wolf comes. Then the wolf can snatch the sheep and scatter them. A hireling runs away because he does not care about the sheep.

Jesus said that He is the good shepherd who knows His sheep, and they know Him. It is as the Father knows Him and as He knows the Father. Jesus would lay down His life for the sheep. Jesus said that He had other sheep that He would bring to join the fold because they would know His **voice**.

The Father loves Him, because He would lay down His life and take it again for the sheep. Jesus said that no one would take His life away from Him. He would lay it down on His own initiative with authority from His Father.

The Jews thought he had a demon and was insane. They did not want the people listening to Him. Others did not think a demon could open the eyes of a blind man.

This happened at the Feast of the Dedication in the winter at Jerusalem. Jesus was walking in the portico of Solomon in the temple. The Jews gathered around and wanted Him to tell them plainly if He was the Christ.

Jesus said that He had already given them the answer, but they would not believe. Jesus pointed to the works that He did in His Father's name. They did not believe because they were not His sheep. Jesus said that He gives eternal **life** to His sheep, and no one can snatch them out of His hand. Jesus said that He and His Father are one.

That is when the Jews took up stones to stone Him. Jesus asked them about which of the good works from the Father they were stoning Him. They said they were stoning Him for blasphemy since He was calling Himself God, not because of His good works.

Jesus asked them if they were calling the One that the Father sent into the world a blasphemer because He said that He was the Son of God. He pointed out that if He did not do the **works** of the Father, they should not believe Him. If He did do the works of the Father, they should believe what they saw. Then they would understand that the Father was in Him, and He was in the Father.

They tried to seize Him again. However, Jesus left and went beyond the Jordan to where John was first baptizing. Many went to Him. They believed everything John had said about Him.

<b>QUESTIONS:</b>	Who was Jesus talking to, and what story did Jesus tell them? What was Jesus really saying about the Pharisees, and how did they respond?
<b>PRAYER:</b>	Father, thank you for your Son, the Lamb of God, the Good Shepherd and the Door.

# ACTIVITY PAGE

## Lesson 37

### The Good Shepherd

<b>PASSAGE:</b>	John 10
<b>VERSE:</b>	John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."
<b>SONGS:</b>	"Gentle Shepherd," "The Lord's My Shepherd," "Savior, Like a Shepherd"
<b>ACTIVITIES:</b>	<p><b>Follow the Leader Sheep and Shepherds:</b> Have the children be sheep. Have a shepherd call them by name and lead them from place to place.  <b>SAY:</b> Jesus said He was the good shepherd.</p> <p><b>Shepherds and Sheep:</b> Read a story about shepherds and sheep, and relate it to the passage. Have the children trace shapes of sheep and shepherds.  <b>SAY:</b> Jesus told a story about the good shepherd.</p> <p><b>Rope Map:</b> Make a map showing the area beyond the Jordan where Jesus went.  <b>SAY:</b> Jesus left Jerusalem to be safe since it was not yet His time. He went beyond the Jordan.</p> <p><b>Sign Review:</b> Review the six signs that have been done so far. Use an object to represent each of the six signs. Review these objects on a tray. Let the children look at the objects, handle them and talk about what they represent.  <b>SAY:</b> There have been six signs so far.</p> <p><b>Enemies of Sheep:</b> Have the children color pictures of such things as wolves, bears, thieves and robbers to make targets.  <b>SAY:</b> Hirelings do not take care of the sheep when they are in trouble because they are not the owners.</p> <p><b>Beanbag Toss:</b> Have the children practice throwing beanbags at the wolves, bears, thieves and robbers targets that they have made.  <b>SAY:</b> The good shepherd protects the sheep from such things as wolves, bears thieves and robbers.</p> <p><b>Concentration/Matching Game:</b> Use picture cards of things related to the lesson.</p> <p><b>Snack:</b> Bread sticks; water. Who are you following?</p> <p><b>Rest Time:</b> Think about how Jesus was the good shepherd.</p>