

# Walking With Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Study Guide for Lesson Four—February 8, 2013

Day One:

*"I am the Good Shepherd"*

Welcome back to our study. This week we will continue to *listen in* on Jesus' message about sheep, shepherds, wolves, thieves and hired hands. Remember, this conversation took place at the temple in Jerusalem after the celebration of the **Festival of Booths** and the healing of the blind man. Let's begin as always by writing out our theme verse for the week. Look up **John 10:14**, underline it in your own Bible and write it out here:

What is the one defining action of a shepherd in this verse?

Now Read **John 10:11-14**. Let's mark our cast of characters with some uniquely identifying marks. You can choose underlines, circles, squares, bubbly clouds...

- Mark each phrase "**good shepherd**" (you should find 3)
- Mark with a different symbol the phrase "**hired hand**" (and pronouns associated with it)
- Lastly mark each of the six words "**sheep**"

We probably all know that in Scripture 'we' are identified as sheep.

- Read **Psalm 100:3**

Here is something interesting to ponder—Jesus is also a sheep. He is a sheep/shepherd.

- Read **John 1:29**. Who is the sheep in that verse?

**Under the Old Covenant the sheep died for the shepherds,  
but under the New Covenant the Shepherd died for the sheep.**



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Day Two:

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Many of the great men of the Old Testament were shepherds first. Then God called them into a position of leading His people (Abraham, Moses and David). Possibly the skills they learned and the long hours out in the open fields with no one to talk to but God and the sheep were the perfect training ground for godly leadership.

Yesterday we marked two opposing identities in our passage: The "Good Shepherd" and the "hired man" which Scripture also calls false shepherds. Describe what the Lord has to say about those who are not appointed by Him and who do not have His same care and concern.

Actions and traits of false shepherds    How their actions affect the sheep

John 10:10

John 10:12-13

Ezekiel 34:1-6

Now think back to the actions of the religious leaders in the resolution to the story of the man born blind (**John 9:34**). Describe their category and their actions.

Contrast those actions with **Rev. 7:17**—the actions of our Sheep/Shepherd Jesus:



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Day Three:

*"I am the Good Shepherd"*

**I Am the Good Shepherd** is the only "I Am" associated with a *type of person*, and a shepherd is a type of person who would have been very familiar to Jesus' audience. In these last two days let's investigate five characteristics of our Good Shepherd:

## Our Shepherd Owns his Sheep

Especially after yesterday's study on the hired hand, the concept of owning the sheep is important. Read **John 10:11, 15**. You'll notice that there is a repetition in those verses. What is it?

**1 John 3:16**—exactly *who* laid down his life for the sheep?

**Acts 20:28**—*What* was the form of payment for the sheep?

**1 Cor. 6:19-20** —*What* should our response be to his purchase and ownership of us?

## Our Shepherd Calls his Sheep

**John 10:3b** says "He \_\_\_\_\_ his own sheep by \_\_\_\_\_. That is another aspect of our Shepherd—he draws each one of us to himself individually. Look up these verses and write the name of the person who God was calling by name:

Genesis 22:11: \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 3:4: \_\_\_\_\_  
John 1:42: \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 19:5: \_\_\_\_\_

Those are just four examples of calling sheep by name. The point is that we don't belong to him without him first drawing us. Read **John 6:44**. If you are born again God called you by name already. If you are not—he is drawing you right now or you would have no interest in this study!

## Our Shepherd Knows his Sheep

**Isaiah 40:11** Is a fabulous verse showing the tenderness of our Heavenly Father toward us. Look it up and complete the missing portions:

He \_\_\_\_\_ his flock like a \_\_\_\_\_  
He \_\_\_\_\_ the lambs in his \_\_\_\_\_ and carries them close to his \_\_\_\_\_;  
He \_\_\_\_\_ leads those that have \_\_\_\_\_.

...more tomorrow!



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## Our Shepherd Cares for his sheep

Read the familiar six-verse **Psalm 23**. List as many ways as you can think of that this Shepherd is caring for his sheep.

Choose ONE of those and describe a time when Jesus cared for YOU in that way. Jot down some notes and prepare to share with your group.

I want us to look at a few examples from the 'ministry-years' of Jesus to discover ways that he personally cared for his flock. Look up these verses and make notes of the example you see of 'care'.

**John 19:26-27** (care for his mother)

**John 20:26-29** (care for one disciple)

**John 21:15-17** (care for the whole flock)

## Our Shepherd Gathers his Flock

Read **John 10:16:18**. Based on the context of this chapter,

- who are the sheep in 'this sheep pen'?
- who are the 'other sheep'?

Read **Eph. 2:11-13**. It's good for us Gentiles once in awhile to read words like *without hope* and *without God* to remind us what a huge privilege it is to be purchased into His flock. The Jews wouldn't have been thinking about Jesus gathering other sheep. Maybe sometimes we are not as aware as we should be of ALL the sheep Jesus wants to gather.

By way of agreement with Jesus' intentions, ask him to impress on your heart someone who you believe is NOT part of his flock and begin (or continue) to pray for that lost sheep and ask Jesus how He might want to use YOU in that gathering process.

*I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.  
I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Ezekiel 34:16*

