

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 16

*I am the Door for the Sheep*

# The Door for the Sheep

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To highlight the difference between the goals of Christ and the goals of the world. Christ wants us to have abundant life, the world wants to kill, steal and destroy.

## Key Verses

John 10:1-10—Main Teaching Passage

Hebrews 11:6

Luke 13:3

1 Peter 5:4

1 Peter 5:8

## Memory Verse - John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

## Hook

Review last weeks memory verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Ask the class, "If two people were asking you to do something, who would you be more likely to obey, a thief or a police officer? What about your teacher at school or the school bully?"

(Hopefully they answer that they would be more like to obey the police officer and the teacher, not the criminal or the bully.)

Ask, "Why?" The police officer and the teacher want to protect you and help you. The thief and the bully want to do you harm.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

The statement “I am the door,” found in John 10:7, is the third of seven “I am” declarations of Jesus recorded only in John’s Gospel. These “I am” proclamations point to His unique, divine identity and purpose. In this “I am” statement, Jesus colorfully points out for us the exclusive nature of salvation by saying that He is “the door,” not “a door.” Furthermore, Jesus is not only our Shepherd who leads us into the “sheepfold,” but He is the *only* door by which we may enter and be saved (John 10:9). Jesus is the only means we have of receiving eternal life (John 3:16). There is no other way.

To get a clear picture of Jesus’ meaning in this statement, it is helpful to understand a little of that ancient culture, especially of sheep and shepherding. Of all domesticated animals, sheep are the most helpless. Sheep will spend their entire day grazing, wandering from place to place, never looking up. As a result, they often become lost. But sheep have no “homing instinct” as other animals do. They are totally incapable of finding their way to the sheepfold, even when it is in plain sight. By nature, sheep are followers. If the lead sheep steps off a cliff, the others will follow.

There were two kinds of sheepfolds or pens. One kind was a public sheepfold found in the cities and villages. It would be large enough to hold several flocks of sheep. This sheep pen would be in the care of a porter or doorkeeper, whose duty it was to guard the door to the sheep pen during the night and to admit the shepherds in the morning. The shepherds would call their sheep, each of which knew its own shepherd’s voice, and would lead them out to pasture.

The second kind of sheep pen was in the countryside, where the shepherds would keep their flocks in good weather. This type of sheep pen was nothing more than a rough circle of rocks piled into a wall with a small open space to enter. Through it the shepherd would drive the sheep at nightfall. Since there was no gate to close—just an opening—the shepherd would keep the sheep in and wild animals out by lying across the opening. He would sleep there, in this case literally becoming the door to the sheep.

In this context, Jesus is telling us that He is not only the shepherd of the sheep, but also the door of the sheep. In doing so, He is vividly contrasting Himself with that of the religious leaders of His time, whom He describes as “thieves and robbers” (John 10:8). When Jesus says, “I am

# BOOK (Continued)

the door,” He is reiterating the fact that only through Him is salvation possible. This is far-removed from the ecumenical teachings popular in today’s liberal religious circles. Jesus makes it clear that any religious leader who offers salvation according to anything other than the teachings of Christ is a “thief” and a “robber.”

One who believes the gospel (Hebrews 11:6) and repents of sin (Luke 13:3) is assured of being in “the fold” and of having entered by “the door.” As followers of Christ, Jesus is both our Shepherd and the Door to the sheepfold who provides for all our needs. Knowing that the world is full of predators whose sole intent is to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8), we are always under His protection. More importantly, we are fully confident that when the Chief Shepherd appears, we will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away” (1 Peter 5:4).

## LOOK

John 10 puts two very real people before us. The first is Christ, described as the Door through which we enter to find abundant life, peace, and pasture. The second is the thief, who ambushes us, sneaking over walls and prowling around trying to “kill, steal and destroy” us. Just as in our opening question, the answer to who we should listen to should be obvious. We of course should listen to Christ and ignore the thief. Why would anybody deal with a thief, who wants to do them harm, when they could be with Christ who wants to bring life, salvation, safety, and peace?

John 10 calls us sheep. This is not a compliment. Sheep are some of the silliest animals in the world. Sheep need someone to care for them and protect them, and so do we. The passage that we read says, “When he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” Do you know Christ’s voice? Do you follow Him when He calls to you, or do you listen to the thief who is trying to lead you astray?” In so many ways, we get in the most trouble when we listen to the wrong voice and ignore what we know to be right and true. John 10 says that sheep know their master’s voice. How can we know Jesus voice? Through the only words He has given us, the Bible. All year, we have been providing you with a memory verse every week. We aren’t doing that because we need to fill up 10 minutes in our Bible class. We aren’t giving you Bible verses to memorize because we like giving you homework. We are giving you Bible verses to memorize because we want you to know Jesus’ voice and follow Him when He speaks to you through His Word.

The interpretation/  
exegesis of the passage.  
What does this passage  
mean? How does this  
passage apply to my  
life?

# LOOK (Continued)

\*Hand out the list of Bible verses we have memorized so far this year. This will be provided for each class room\*

Look at the verses that we have given you guys. Are these verses that give you life, like Jesus promised, or do they kill, steal, and destroy? It is so very important that all believers of Christ read His Word daily. The Bible says that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. Reading His Word prepares us to live for Christ and helps us to make decisions every single day.

The world tells us things that are hurtful and wicked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It talks to us through music and movies, TV and video games, even through books and magazines. We have to ask ourselves the question, who are we going to listen to? Are we going to follow Jesus and be people of salvation, life, and peace? Or are we going to follow the thief and be people who gossip and lie, cheat and steal, kill and destroy? Jesus promised us that if we enter through Him, we will have salvation and safe pasture. If when you look at your life, you see one foot in Jesus and one foot in the world, please know Jesus is calling you to come in to the sheepfold, and He wants all of you: your thoughts, your attitude, and your actions.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize John 16:33.

**Pray:** Ask the Lord to help you to read and remember His Word. Thank Him that He speaks to us through His Word, ask Him to help us to hear and obey. Praise Him that in Him we can have life and have it to the fullest.

**Parent Question:** How has the Bible helped you make decisions in your life?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on John 10 by David Guzik

### *John 10 - The Good Shepherd*

A. Contrast between the Good Shepherd and the false shepherds of Israel.

1. (1-2) Jesus is the true, legitimate shepherd, who enters in the way that is proper and prepared (by Old Testament prophecies).

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."

a. **A thief and a robber:** The Pharisees have shown that they are ungodly leaders of Israel by their excommunication of the man born blind. They avoided the proper entry to the kingdom of God (**some other way**), therefore they are suspect.

b. **He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep:** **Shepherd** was a common Old Testament picture of a leader of God's people, whether good or bad (Isaiah 56:11, Jeremiah 31:5).

2. (3-6) The sheep and their shepherd.

"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

a. **To him the doorkeeper opens:** In towns, sheep from many flocks were kept for the night in a common sheepfold, overseen by one "**doorkeeper**" who regulated which shepherds brought and took which sheep.

b. **He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out:** The shepherd calls the **sheep by name**, showing that the shepherd has a personal connection with the sheep. The shepherd **leads them**, instead of driving them, showing His loving care for the sheep.

c. **For they know his voice:** In the common sheepfolds of ancient times, the shepherd merely gave his distinctive call and his sheep came out from the others, following him out of the sheepfold. Sheep are experts at discerning their shepherd's **voice**.

i. During World War I, some Turkish soldiers tried to steal a flock of sheep from a hillside near Jerusalem. The shepherd, who had been sleeping, awoke to find his flock being driven off. He couldn't recapture them by force, so he called out to his flock with his distinctive call. The sheep listened, and returned to their rightful

owner. The soldiers couldn't stop the sheep from returning to their shepherd's voice.

d. **He brings out his own sheep:** Here, Jesus speaks of calling **his own** sheep from the fold of Judaism. He will call out a remnant that will believe in Him (Romans 11:5).

3. (7-10) The true shepherd protects and promotes life; the false shepherds take away life.

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."

a. **I am the door of the sheep:** Is Jesus **the door**, or is He the one who has the right to enter through the door (John 10:2)? Both things are true of Jesus. When Jesus speaks of the **door** in this passage, He refers to a different type of sheepfold, one used out in the fields, not in the towns.

i. A "field" sheep pen was an enclosure for sheep with only one entrance. It might be a cave, a stone or mud-brick structure, and it might or might not have a roof.

b. **I am the door:** In a "field" sheepfold, the shepherd actually laid his body across the entrance, to keep the sheep in and to keep out the wolves. The shepherd was in fact the **door**.

c. **All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers:** *Thief* implies deception and trickery; *robber* implies violence and destruction. These take away life but Jesus gives life and He gives it **abundantly**.