



The Good Shepherd

Lesson Overview

1. What's Your Name?

2. Watch a Video

Watch John 10:1-42 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **1hr 24min 22sec** to **1hr 30min 34sec** (6min 12sec).

3. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

New Church Concept Sheep and Shepherd

People are called “sheep” who are endowed with the good that stems from charity, that is, with spiritual and natural good. And this is why the Lord is called the Shepherd of the sheep.

Arcana Coelestia 294

Truly I say to you, He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up another way, is a thief and robber. I am the door; if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved. (John 10:1,9) Entering the sheepfold is entering the church, and also heaven. *True Christian Religion* 380

“Pasture” is the goodness and truth that refresh and sustain a person’s soul. *Arcana Coelestia* 6078.5

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 21 | Gospel of John

What's Your Name?

1. Many names have a meaning. What does your name mean?
2. Why did your parents choose your name for you?
3. What name will you have after you die?
4. How are angels named?

Watch a Video

Watch John 10:1-42, Jesus the Good Shepherd, from *The Life of Jesus . English. Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start at 1hr 24min 22sec and watch to 1hr 30min 34sec—watch time of 6min 12sec.**)

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Jesus opened the eyes of a man born blind and he saw the Lord. Which sense does the story of the good shepherd call us to use to follow the Lord? (John 10:3)
2. Compare the sense of hearing with the sense of sight. Does one sense affect you more deeply than the other? Which do you remember best—things you see, or things you hear? Which sense affects your feelings more—sight or hearing?
3. Seeing is sensed in the part of the brain that processes thought. Hearing is sensed in the part of the brain that processes thought as well as in the part that processes feeling. What might this say about the Lord’s ability to touch us through our sight and hearing?
4. Which is easier—to picture the Lord, or to hear His voice?
5. To what do the Writings compare the sheepfold? (See sidebar on left.)
6. Why is Jesus the *door* of the sheepfold? Why is it important to enter the sheepfold through the door? What is wrong with trying to enter in other ways?—e.g. over the wall?
7. If people are the Lord’s “sheep,” is it possible for a person to whom the Lord is a stranger to follow Him? (John 10:5).
8. Jesus makes two “I AM” statements in John 10: “I Am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7) and “I AM the good shepherd” (John 10:11). What new picture of the Lord do these I AM statements offer?

9. The prophet Ezekiel compared the children of Israel to a flock of sheep and their religious leaders to evil shepherds. He declared God would “establish one shepherd over them” (Ezekiel 34:23). In saying He was the “Good Shepherd,” what was Jesus implying?
10. Why did Jesus compare the religious leaders with “thieves and robbers.” How were they robbing and stealing? (see below)
11. How might a person “rob” the Lord today? (e.g. taking credit for doing a good deed for themselves; robbing scripture of its true meaning by twisting it to say what we want it to say and not what the Lord means.)
12. Why might an employee (hireling) not be willing to risk his life when the good shepherd would?
13. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I have the authority to lay [my life] down, and I have the authority to take it back again?” (John 10:18)
14. Did the good shepherd lay down His life for His sheep? If so, in what way—as a sacrifice? To atone for our sins?
15. What was Jesus’ mission in the world? How did He realize His mission?
16. Jewish leaders were divided about Jesus. Some said He was mad. Others thought He couldn’t be mad because of the amazing things He did. How might you have felt about Him if you had met Him? What other people in the Word were thought to be mad?
17. What was Jesus’ relationship with His Father?
18. Is heaven a reward for our good works?
19. What should our main motive be in doing good deeds for others?

Summary taken from *The Gospel of John* by Rev. Dr. Ray Silverman

(unpublished manuscript)

The human race, at the time of the Lord’s coming had nearly lost the capacity to perceive truth. The selfish concerns and self-centered motivations of the religious leaders had perverted their ability to accurately interpret Sacred Scripture. As a result, the people were left without a true understanding of God’s unconditional love for them. Like sheep without a shepherd, they were spiritually lost and vulnerable. In effect, the religious leaders had deprived them of a true understanding of God and the life of religion.

Jesus, therefore, calls them “thieves and robbers” who came to kill and destroy. He, however, had come to bring life. He puts it like this: “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 kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.” (John 10:7-11)

New Church Concept Sheep and Shepherd

To call sheep by the Lord’s name is to teach and lead everyone who is in the good of charity according to the state of their love and wisdom. *Divine Providence* 230.4

The Lord’s Rescue

The Lord’s rescue of the spiritual world, and His forthcoming rescue by this means of the church from complete damnation can be illustrated by comparison with a shepherd, who, like Samson or David, snatches his sheep from the jaws of a lion or bear, drives away the wild beasts that come out of the forests to raid the meadows, and pursues them to the furthest reaches, finally driving them into lakes or deserts; and then he comes back to his sheep and pastures them safely, and gives them drink from springs of tranquil waters. See *True Christian Religion* 122

Enter by the Door

To ‘enter by the door into the sheepfold’ denotes to enter by the Lord, for the Lord is ‘the door,’ as He Himself says; ‘the sheep’ are they who are in charity and thence in faith. These enter by the Lord when they acknowledge that from Him is everything of faith and charity, for then these flow in from Him. But to attribute them to others, especially to themselves, is to take them away, thus ‘to slay and to destroy.’ They who attribute to themselves what is the Lord’s also place merit in works, and make themselves righteousness.” *Arcana Coelestia* 8906