



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 26

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

Jesus, the good shepherd, is God, and is one with the Father in heaven.



MONDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 10:1-6

Jesus is the shepherd. In this passage Jesus introduces the sheep/shepherd figure of speech. The Jews listening did not understand what He was saying. We need to be careful not to judge them too severely, as Jesus at first didn't even tell them who He was talking about.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think Jesus spoke in a way that the people who were listening did not understand? (The disciples didn't understand much of what Jesus said. We now know that these words recorded in the Bible were not just for those listening, but for us too.)

How does the picture of sheep and the shepherd help us to understand Jesus? (Since we now understand what Jesus was talking about, we can better understand how much Jesus loves and cares for us by knowing just how much a shepherd cares for his sheep.)

How do these verses encourage us when we understand that we are the sheep and Jesus is the Shepherd? (It is a joy to know that when we belong to Him, we

will understand His voice or Word and that we will be able to tell the difference between Jesus and someone who might lead us astray.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for giving us the Bible that we also might know His voice.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 10:7-10

Jesus is the gate. Not only is Jesus the Shepherd, He is the gate. The gate is the only way in. And, everyone who comes in through the gate will be saved. Jesus is the only way to eternal life!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the sheep pen represent? (The sheep pen represents salvation through Jesus.)

Do you think that Jesus is going to protect the sheep? (Yes. Jesus is the perfect Shepherd. He will protect the sheep.)

Can we get to God another way? (We need to know that Jesus is the only way we can be saved. There is no other way into the sheepfold but through the gate. Jesus is the gate.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross so that we who believe in Him can enter into heaven and enjoy life forever with Jesus.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: JOHN 10:11-21

John 10 is one of the clearest pre-cross explanations of the ministry of Jesus. The Gospel is explained throughout the entire shepherd/sheep analogy. Jesus says that He is the good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. There is no mistaking the gospel here. Perhaps the most beautiful verse in the entire chapter is verse 18, where Jesus demonstrates His incredible love for us all. Jesus said that His death is His willing choice for His sheep. The Transfiguration showed that Jesus had not lost His awesome power. If He wanted to escape the cross, He certainly had the power to do so. But He chose, instead, to lay aside His power and willingly give up His life for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where else do you see the gospel in this chapter of John? (Give your children time to review the chapter and pick up on the analogy of the shepherd and the sheep. If you have younger children, draw them out with simple questions like, “Who do you think the sheep are?”)

Did the Jews understand what Jesus was saying? (No. Some thought He was demonized. Others did not. But they did not understand what He was saying. It was only after Jesus died that the disciples even understood what He meant when He talked about dying and being raised up again.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and laying down His life for us.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 10:22-42

Jesus claimed to be God. Jesus goes on to say that He is not just the Shepherd, but the Good Shepherd. The Jews became impatient and demanded He tell them plainly if He was the Christ (no more shepherd talk!). That is when Jesus calls God His Father and tells them that He is one with the Father! The Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus because by declaring that He was one with the Father, He made Himself to be God. This was very serious claim, much like if somebody today told you he was God. It would have been blasphemous if it were not the truth – a truth they could not understand. To make things clearer, Jesus told them that He is the Son of God, God is His Father, the Father is in Him, and He is in the Father! They then tried to arrest Jesus, but He escaped! Jesus' description of His relationship with the Father in this passage is one of the passages that helps us to understand the idea of the Trinity.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus? (The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because He said He was one with the Father, thus claiming to be God.)

What amazing things did Jesus tell the Jews about what He would do for His sheep? (Jesus said that He would give His sheep eternal life, that they would never perish, and that no one could ever snatch them away from Him.)

What does it mean to hear His voice? (Many people read the Bible, but not everyone believes. Those who hear His voice are those who hear the voice of God, or the call of God, in His Word and obey Him. God's Word touches the heart of every believer. Those who do not believe are not affected by God's Word in the same way.)

PRAY:

Ask God to touch your heart with the gospel message so that you might believe and know the call of Jesus upon your life.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ISAIAH 45:17

Isaiah prophesied the salvation of Israel when he said they would receive an everlasting salvation. Jesus said He came as the Good Shepherd to give eternal life to His sheep and that they would never perish (John 10:28).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Is there any everlasting salvation that could come any other way than through Jesus? (No. Jesus said that He alone was the door into the sheep pen.)

This passage tells us that Israel will be saved. But it seems like the Jews rejected Jesus. How could this passage point to our salvation? (Paul tells us that Israel does not just refer to Abraham's natural descendants, but to all who would believe by faith [Romans 9:6-8].)

PRAY:

Thank God for His salvation - which never ends.