

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

The Gospel Of John Chapter 10

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. As a child, what was your favorite pet? How did this pet respond when it heard your voice?
2. What was the big annual “feast day” for your family of origin? Who usually came? What was served? What was the big pastime?
3. What family traditions did you pass on to your heirs?

Getting us into Scripture

4. What do the sheep, shepherd, the sheep pen and stranger represent? How does the story in chapter 9 provide one example of what this parable is about?
5. How do the sheep respond to the shepherd? How does this relate to the Pharisees’ difficulty in understanding Jesus?
6. What does Jesus mean by likening himself to a gate for the sheepfold? Who are these “thieves and robbers”? How is Jesus unlike them?
7. How does Jesus identify himself with the “good shepherd” (vv.11-15)? How does Jesus’ death relate to his promise in verse 10?
8. Who are the “other sheep” he must bring also? What characterizes his flock?
9. What final claim does Jesus make (vv. 17-18)? Why do his listeners respond as they do? How would you have responded?
10. Given the meaning of the Feast of Hanukkah (when Jews remember their deliverance during the Maccabean revolt, 168-165 B.C.), what feelings about Rome’s authority might surface among the crowds? How would Roman authorities prepare for this feast? What might be the real intent of the Pharisees’ question in verse 24?
11. How do the leaders interpret Jesus’ claim to be one with God? How does Jesus sidetrack them (v. 34; see also Psalm 82:6)?
12. What could account for the difference in reception Jesus received across the Jordan (vv. 40-42)?

Getting Scripture into us

13. What was the turning point for you in terms of hearing “God’s voice” and responding?
14. How do you discern his voice from all the voices that vie for your attention?
15. How does it make you feel to think of God caring for you as the Good Shepherd?
16. What has convinced you that Jesus is the Messiah? What “old ways” of looking at Jesus must you overcome by faith?
17. What difference does it make that Jesus is God and not just a man? Would the promise of verse 28 mean much otherwise?