

When Jesus said "I am the good shepherd", he claimed that he is the true leader of God's people. As the good shepherd, Jesus would give up his own life to save his sheep. When Jesus died on the cross, he died:

- willingly and intentionally (it was not just a tragic accident)
- because he loves his people
- to save his people (it was necessary, it achieved a purpose)
- and he did not stay dead but rose to life again.

Jesus came to rescue everyone who follows him as their Shepherd, so they can have life to the full.



BIBLE STUDIES 2022

How will you respond?

How does it affect your life to know that God died for you?

For us who follow Jesus today, how do we "hear his voice"?

Pray

- Thank God that Jesus is our good shepherd, a leader who truly cares for his people, and laid down his life for us.
- Ask God to keep bringing more "sheep" in to his flock!

Coming up at FOCUS...

Fri 8 April 6pm FOCUS main meeting & Bible study
LTB room 3.21

Thurs 14 April The Drama of Easter (John 17-20 performance)
7pm at Mentone Baptist Church



Join our Facebook group for all the details!



Icebreaker

Think about the leaders in your life (eg: parents, uni lecturers, bosses at work, church leaders, government...)

What makes a good or bad leader?

Would any of your leaders do any of the following things for you?

- a) Let you stay in their house for 3 months
- b) Lend you \$100,000 to help you out of trouble
- c) Donate an organ to save your life

What would you think of them if they did?

This semester in FOCUS we are reading the Gospel according to John. The author, John, was a friend and eyewitness of Jesus. John's Gospel contains many deep symbols and metaphors, taken from everyday life and from the Old Testament. So far in John's gospel, we have explored Jesus' identity through his own words: he is the Word, he is the light of the world, he is the bread of life. In today's passage, Jesus uses two different metaphors to describe who he is and why he came.

The gate: **Read John 10:1-10**

Compare...	The thief	The shepherd
How do they enter the sheep pen?		
What is their relationship with the sheep?		

What metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself (v7)?
What does this mean?

What do the sheep represent?

Pharisees = an important group of Jewish religious leaders
sheep pen = a fenced area where sheep rested. It only had one entrance.
shepherd = someone who looks after sheep. A shepherd's life was rough, dangerous and costly. In the Bible, God is described metaphorically as the "shepherd" of his people. The leaders of God's people are also "shepherds" (see Ezekiel 34).
hired hand = someone who is paid to do a job

The good shepherd: **Read John 10:11-21**

What is the second metaphor that Jesus uses to describe himself? (v11)

Compare...	The hired hand	The good shepherd
What is their relationship with the sheep?		

What do we learn here about the relationship between Jesus and his Father?

Who is Jesus comparing himself with?
[Optional: Look up Ezekiel 34:1-6]

Who are the other sheep that are "not of this sheep pen" (v16)?

Read **v17-18**. What is Jesus talking about here?

We might think it would be better for the sheep if the shepherd didn't die.
 How did the death of the good shepherd (Jesus) bring life to his sheep (people)?