

1. **Pray:** ask God to open your mind, soul and spirit to His teaching through His Word
2. **Think:** the questions are designed to expand your knowledge of God and His Word
3. **Begin:** using only your Bible, answer the questions without other outside sources

Lesson Fifteen—The Gospel of John Chapter 10

January 14, 2009

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in John 10:1–21?

2. Read Matthew 13:10–15 and look up the word “parable” in the dictionary. Why did Jesus speak to them in parables or “this figure of speech” in John 10:6?

3. a) Jesus refers to a “thief and a robber” in John 10:1, 8 and 10. Who do you **think** the thief is?

b) What specifically do you think he is trying to steal? Why?

4. a) Who do you **think** the hired hand is in John 10:12–13?

b) Read Zechariah 11:16–17 and Jeremiah 23:1–4. What will happen to this other type of shepherd?

c) What issues or questions do the verses in Zechariah 11:16–17 above bring up for you?

5. a) What does the good shepherd do for his sheep in John 10? Give verses.

b) Why is it important that the good shepherd “lay down his life for the sheep”?

c) In your own words, describe how well Jesus knows his sheep.

d) Why do you **think** it is so important that Jesus know His sheep in this way?

6. a) Who do you **think** Jesus' own sheep are?

b) How do the sheep respond to the good shepherd, versus strangers and thieves and robbers? Give verses.

- c) Describe how well (or not) your own behavior and thoughts reflect the sheep's responses in John 10:1–30.
 - d) Name three specific ways you could mature in your response to Jesus' shepherding of you. Will you ask your group to hold you accountable to these changes?
7. a) What do you learn about Jesus in John 10:18? Be thorough.
- b) Do you think we have the authority to lay down our own lives? Why or why not?
8. According to Jesus in John 10:26, why don't "the Jews" believe him?
9. a) According to John 10:28–29, how important is the security of His sheep to Jesus and the Father?
- b) Do you think John 10:28–29 mean that once a sheep joins Jesus' flock, Jesus and the Father guarantee her security unconditionally? Why or why not?

10. How does Jesus describe the relationship between Himself and the Father in John 10? Give verses.

11. Are you feeling a tug to be a shepherd to a group of people in your life—a group of friends, students, children, co-workers or family members? If so, which qualities of a shepherd exemplified by Jesus do you feel led to develop?

OR, are you feeling a tug to serve God in some other capacity? If so, how will your knowledge of the qualities of Jesus as shepherd guide and direct your service?