



Family Conversation Guide

(July 18, 2021)

In **John 10:1-21**, Jesus continues His discussion with the religious leaders. Jesus often told stories or used word pictures to help people understand what He was teaching. **He uses the illustration of a shepherd with his sheep to talk about His relationship with those who follow Him.** Throughout the Bible, God is described as a shepherd who cares for His sheep. Now, Jesus says He is the Shepherd.

READ AND DISCUSS

Ask family members to find **John 10** in their Bibles. Give them pens and paper so that they can take notes as they listen to the sermon. **Ask your family members what they know about sheep.** Let them give their thoughts, then ask:

1. **Why do sheep need a shepherd?**
2. Read **John 1:1-6**. In this teaching, Jesus uses familiar things from the Bible and in their lives to help people understand:
 - **Who are the sheep?** (*We are*)
 - **Who is the shepherd?** (*Jesus- teaching the truth, because we need to know the truth*)
 - **Who are the under-shepherds?** (*Church leaders, pastors*)
 - **What is a sheepfold?** (*A place where sheep are held and protected at night*) **What is Jesus referring to as the sheepfold?** (*The church*)
 - **Who can the gatekeeper (God) allow to enter the gate to the sheepfold to care for the sheep?** (*Only the shepherd*)

- **How do the sheep know the shepherd?** *(They know his voice and he calls them by name. His is the only voice they would follow. They know they belong to him.)*
 - **What does Jesus say about others who climb into the sheepfold another way?** *(They are thieves and robbers- this refers to religious leaders who teach falsely about the Bible and God and use people for their own personal gain)*
3. In **verse 4**, the shepherd leads the sheep out- he takes them out of the safe sheepfold and goes before His sheep, leading them to the place He wants them to be. **Do we follow Jesus faithfully, trusting Him as He leads us?**
 4. In **verse 5**, what should the sheep do if they hear the voice of a stranger? *(Do not follow him!)*
 5. Read **verses 7-15**. Jesus says He is the only door (to the only opening to the walled-in, safe area of the pasture). **In verse 9, what is Jesus saying?** *(Jesus is saying He is the only way to be saved and to enter heaven, and that we are saved from being separated from the Father forever.)*
 6. In **John 10:10**, Jesus says the thieves come to steal, kill, and destroy. **What are they there for?** *(For their own greed, ambition, and to deceive us)*
 7. Also in **verse 10**, He came so that we- the sheep- will have an “abundant life” in Him while on earth. **What does an “abundant life” look like to you?**
 8. In **verse 11**, Jesus calls Himself “the Good Shepherd.” Believing that Jesus is good and wants only good for us is essential to us having faith in Him. **Do you believe that Jesus is good? Do you believe He wants good things for you?**
 9. In his message, David Chadwick mentions the things a shepherd carries to take care of his sheep:

- **Provide:** In His pouch, the shepherd carries bread to feed the sheep.
 - **Protect:** He carries stones to protect the sheep.
 - **Guide:** He also carries a staff to correct the sheep if they start to go in the wrong direction or into danger. By gently putting the staff around the sheep's neck, he can pull them back in the direction he wants them to go.
10. A good parent does this with their children as well! It's a parent's job to guide their children and to help them find the right path. If their kids are making bad choices or they are putting themselves in danger, good parents correct and point their kids in the direction they should go in a loving way. **Can you think of a time when your parents corrected you and pointed you in a better direction? If you are a follower of Jesus, have you ever felt Him correct you and lead you away from danger or bad decisions?**
11. In **verse 11**, what is the shepherd willing to do for his sheep? (*Lay down his life*) **Do you know that Jesus laid down His life for you, to save you from your sin?** (*He did it because He loves you.*)
12. In **verses 12-13**, Jesus says that the Good Shepherd loves His sheep because they belong to Him, He is not hired to care for them. **Do you know that you belong to Him?**
13. Read **verses 16-21**. In **verse 16**, who are the other sheep who belong to Jesus, that are not Jews? (*He is talking about us!*) There are many churches and many kinds of people who follow Jesus. He has called us all to be His sheep.
14. In **verse 17**, why does the Father love Jesus? (*Because He gave His life for us, and He CHOSE to do it*) He also took His life up again, He rose from the dead. He took the punishment for us on Himself so we could be forgiven and live with Him forever.

15. This section ends with the religious leaders continuing to argue who Jesus is.

Who do YOU think Jesus is?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Together, **watch this video**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ydoioxTIRA>

Say: In the sermon this week, David Chadwick talks about false teaching. It can be confusing sometimes living in this world, because we hear many different messages. How can we be sure that we are not listening to false teaching and that we can hear God's voice?

1. Read and know the Bible. Find out what God has to say about things!
2. Pray, asking God for His wisdom in every situation.
3. Know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. He is our Good Shepherd and He loves us. He will guide us and protect us. He will provide for us. He will give us correction when we need it. In His words we can find truth.

Challenge your family to do these things on a daily basis. If possible, gather together to read a section of scripture and discuss at least once a week. YouVersion on The Bible App has some great daily reading plans!

PRAYER

Jesus, Thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Thank You for providing for us, protecting us, guiding us, and loving us. Help us to follow Your voice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Together, **watch this video** where sheep talk about **The Good Shepherd!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDJRmJhFFzM>

Ask:

1. What does a good shepherd do?
2. Did you know that Jesus calls Himself a Good Shepherd and that we are His sheep?
3. If a good shepherd loves and cares for his sheep, how will Jesus take care of us? (He will provide food and other things we need, protect us, guide us, and love us.)

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, Thank You for being our Good Shepherd. Thank You for loving us and taking care of us. Help us to know You better! In Jesus' name, Amen.*