



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Shepherd & His Sheep

TEXT: John 10:1-42

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Jesus was a master at using simple, everyday objects or events to illustrate profound spiritual truths. The farmer scattering seed, the vine sustaining the branches, and sparrows falling to the earth all took on a new dimension in Jesus' eyes. In John 10, Jesus uses the scene of a shepherd enclosing his sheep in a sheepfold to give us one of the most moving pictures of our salvation and security in Christ found anywhere in the Bible. If you've ever doubted the love of Christ, Jesus will give you a healthy dose of assurance in this chapter.

Discussion Questions:

1. What usually prompts you to have doubts about your salvation or your walk with Christ - your own sin? feelings of unworthiness? personal failures? Explain.
2. Read John 10:1-21. Jesus uses the picture of the sheepfold as a "figure of speech" (v. 6). What spiritual truths is Jesus trying to convey (v. 1-5)?
3. What does Jesus mean when he describes himself as "the gate for the sheep" (v. 7-10)?
4. In verses 11-15 Jesus talks about the shepherd's care for his sheep. What can you learn from those verses about Jesus' care and relationship with you?
5. What does Jesus reveal about the future of his flock (v. 16)? - In what ways do you feel a part of "one flock" under "one shepherd"?
6. Why do you think Jesus stresses that he lays down his life of his own accord (w. 17-18)?
7. Read John 10:22-42. According to Jesus, how are the Jews in this passage different from his sheep (v. 22-27)?
8. Jesus calls his followers sheep. What impressions (positive and negative) does the picture of sheep bring to your mind?

9. How do you respond to promises and assurances Jesus gives his sheep in verses 28-29?
10. When Jesus claims that he and the Father are one, the Jews pick up stones to stone him (v. 30-33). Do you think his defense is a denial of his deity (v. 33-36)? Explain
11. Which promise from Jesus in this chapter is most encouraging to you? - How can that promise help you with your answer to question number 1?