

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 10:22-42

FOCUS: The Good Shepherd

MEMORY VERSE: I John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class..)

I. Introduction

"During World War I, both the Allies and Germany used radios and telephones to communicate in war zones. To keep the enemy from understanding what was said, the Allies used secret codes. But the German army kept breaking the codes--until the Allies got the great idea to start using Native Americans to talk over the radio in codes based on their native languages. The Germans could not figure out what they were saying.

During the Second World War's largest invasion--D-Day--Native Americans were used again to confuse the Germans.

Their code was simply to use everyday words from their own language to stand for things in the ward. They called tanks *turtles*, machine guns were called *sewing machines*, and bazookas were called *stovepipes*. If a Native American code talker saw a row of tanks approaching, he could send a message back to the troops for them to 'Get out the stove pipes, because the sewing machines are not strong enough, and we have a line of turtles coming.' Of course, they would use the words from their native language. This fooled the Germans every time" (p. 183-184, *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski)"

So now that you know the backstory of this secret code, what do these two sentences mean now?

The enemy army sent tanks to attack us.

I've always wanted to ride on a submarine.

"In our story today, Jesus used his own code to pass along a message of the gospel. This confused the disciples. See if you can figure out what Jesus is talking about." (p. 183-184, *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski)"

II. Bible Passage

Let's read John 10:22-27

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

This conversation is taking place about 2 months later than the first half of John 10, but Jesus is going to use the same code words that He used previously. The Jews are demanding that Jesus speak plainly to them, but He doesn't.

WHAT "code word" does Jesus use in John 10:26? **Sheep**

"The sheep are God's people and the shepherd is Jesus. It is easier for us to understand this code because we know all about Jesus' life from reading the rest of the Bible. Once you know the meaning of the code words, the picture of God as a shepherd in the code helps us to understand how God cares for us. Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, so God cares for us. The people of Jesus' day knew all about shepherds and sheep, so that made it easier for them to remember and to teach others. But for the enemies of God--those who refused to believe--the code sounded like foolishness." (p. 184, *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski)

John 10:25 WHY did Jesus speak in "code" instead of telling people exactly what he meant? **He did tell but they did not believe [see Matthew 13:13-15]**

John 10: 26 WHY do they not believe? **They are not among Jesus' sheep**

John 10:27 WHO will hear and follow (believe) Jesus? **His sheep**

Jesus uses these code words to give His sheep a picture of His love for us. He is going to use another picture to help us understand His promise as our Shepherd. Let's keep reading.

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one."

John 10:28 WHAT three promises does Jesus give His sheep?

1. I give them e _____ life
2. They will never p _____
3. No one will s _____ them out of my h _____.

Do you remember last week when Jesus talked about the thieves and robbers who were trying to lure away and steal Jesus' sheep? Who are some of these thieves and robbers? **Allow students to answer, Satan,**

those who hate God, unbelievers, etc There are many people that would like to steal us away from God or lure us away from following Him. But Jesus promised that we are held in His hand and no one will snatch us away.

Let's do a small experiment. I need two volunteers. If possible, choose a smaller child and a larger child.

Candy Snatching

You will need the following:

- *Hard wrapped candy*
- *Paper with instructions "Snatch the candy out of hand"*

1. Ask smaller child to lay hand out flat. Place candy on palm. Ask him to keep the candy in his hand.
2. Give slip of paper to older child and ask them to read it secretly.
3. **SAY:** to the older child, **On the count of three, I want you to do what is written on your paper. 1--2--3!**
4. The older child will likely succeed in taking candy from younger child.
5. **Say: That was pretty easy. Let's try again but now I want *adult's name* to hold the candy.**
6. Adult volunteer will place candy on palm, perhaps high above children's head. Tell older child to snatch candy away from him.
7. After experiment, give each child a piece of candy.

That was much harder this time, wasn't it? Why? **Allow students to answer, bigger, taller, older, more experience, etc.** It was harder (or impossible) for you as a child to snatch something from an adult's hand. But Jesus said that we are in His hands, and since Jesus is God, we are actually in God the Father's hand. Let's read about God's hands. Draw a circle around the keyword HAND when we read it.

Psalms 89: 13 You have a mighty arm; strong is your HAND, high your right HAND.

Isaiah 48:13 My HAND laid the foundation of the earth, and my right HAND spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

Exodus 15:6 Your right HAND, O Lord, *glorious in power*, your right HAND, O Lord, *shatters the enemy*.

Job 12:10 In his HAND is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Isaiah 40:12a Who has *measured the waters* in the hollow of his HAND and marked off the heavens with a span,

Ezekiel 39:21 "And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my HAND that I have laid on them.

Psalms 20:6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right HAND.

What are some of the words that are used to describe God's Hand? **Mighty, strong, high, spread out the heavens, glorious in power, shatters the enemy, measured the oceans and heavens, executes judgment, saving** This is the hand that holds you if you are God's sheep. Who or what will snatch you out of this hand?

No one! No enemy, not Satan, not even yourself or your sins. If you are God's sheep and have heard His voice and followed Him, He holds you securely

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse reminds us that we were all lost sheep. But Jesus is our Rescuer!

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

VII. Bible Reading Challenge

Over and over today, Jesus said that His sheep will know His voice and follow Him. Back in Chapter 8, Jesus said that we will know if we are His disciples if we "hold fast" or "abide" in His Word. As a church, we want to encourage you to know Jesus' Words and Voice by reading the Bible.

Starting in March, we will have a 25 day Bible reading challenge. It will be full of fun and prizes and we'll have a final celebration between services in the gym. I hope you will all be a part of this fun challenge and know Jesus' voice by reading the Bible.

Name: _____

John 10

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

WHAT "code word" does Jesus use in John 10:26?

John 10:25 WHY did Jesus speak in “code” instead of telling people exactly what he meant?

John 10: 26 WHY do they not believe?

John 10:27 WHO will hear and follow (believe) Jesus?

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”

John 10:28 WHAT three promises does Jesus give His sheep?

1. I give them e ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ life
2. They will never p ____ ____ ____ ____
3. No one will s ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ them out of my h ____ ____ ____.

Psalms 89: 13 You have a mighty arm; strong is your HAND, high your right HAND.

Isaiah 48:13 My HAND laid the foundation of the earth, and my right HAND spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

Exodus 15:6 Your right HAND, O Lord, glorious in power, your right HAND, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

Job 12:10 In his HAND is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Isaiah 40:12a Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his HAND and marked off the heavens with a span,

Ezekiel 39:21 “And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my HAND that I have laid on them.

Psalm 20:6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right HAND.