

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of February 21, 2021

MY STORY

What's your reaction to being described as a "sheep"?

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

Jesus mentioned two voices that the sheep hear—a stranger and the shepherd. How do we, as His sheep distinguish between them?

Acts 17:10-11 1 Jn. 4:1-3 Dt. 13:1-4

Why is it important for us to know the Shepherd's voice?

Jesus contrasted Himself with the religious teachers of His day—the "Good Shepherd" vs "thieves and robbers." Is this a valid measurement for today's religious leaders? How?

What does Jesus' commitment to His sheep mean to you?

What impact, if any, does this commitment have on those who are shepherds today?

According to Jesus, what is the factor that makes all His sheep one flock? How does that affect us at WPCC?

Jim stressed the importance of the concept of knowing and known—Jesus and His sheep; the Father and the Son. What evidence do we have of knowing the Shepherd?

1 Jn. 2:3-6 Jn. 14:21 Jn. 13:34-35

We see that there are always two reactions to Jesus' teachings—acceptance or rejection. How can we respond to those who are skeptical or unbelieving?

2 Tim. 2:23-26

PRAYER REQUEST

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Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionary of the Month Please pray for Ruth Parajuli as she returns to Nepal this week.

Woodcutting Day Mark your calendars... we'll be cutting and delivering firewood again on March 6th at 9 a.m.



The Gospel of John---That You May Believe

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-21 (ESV) Jim Vandermeer February 21, 2021

I The Voice of the Shepherd

- We *know* the voice of Jesus
- Scripture *teaches* us the voice of Jesus

II The Protection of the Shepherd

- Jesus is the door behind which we are protected
- Jesus is the door through which we receive life

III The Commitment of the Shepherd

- Jesus is committed to *save* us
- Jesus is committed to *keep* us

IV The Authority of the Shepherd

- Because God chose us, the Shepherd *knows* us
- He had the authority to lay His life down and the power to take it up