

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>

*Week 15 ~ Exploring John 10:1-21*

## **Personal Study Time:**

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

### **Day 1: Read John 10:1-21 twice and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Using a concordance to the King James Version (such as Cruden's or Strong's) find all the verses in the Gospel of John that contain the statement "verily, verily" (look up the word "verily"). Make a list of all these verses and write beside each a brief summary of how it fits into the context. Does it introduce a new thought or emphasize a previous one? Does it come at the beginning, middle, or end of a discourse or discussion?
- Have you learned to distinguish the "voice of God" in your life as opposed to other "voices?" What strategies have helped you become more open to God's leading in your life? What aspects of modern life make it particularly difficult to sense the voice of the Good Shepherd? Can you recall the last time you knew that God had been guiding you in a certain direction?

### **Days 2: Reread John 10:1-21 and then answer the following questions.**

- Compare John 10:1-21 with Luke 15 and Matt 18. On three sheets of paper write down the similarities and differences that you see between these three versions of the lost sheep motif in their respective contexts. What do the sheep, the shepherd, the stranger, and the robbers each represent? In what way is this passage related to John 9?

### **Days 3: Read John 10:1-21 and then answer the following questions.**

- Now that you've read this passage several times – now let's do some digging into the historical/cultural background of the passage. Using a Bible dictionary, look up the terms sheep and shepherd. In a paragraph or two record your findings on both terms.
- Does the information you've just discovered change or enhance your understanding of this passage? If so, how?

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<sup>1</sup> Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

**Day 4: Reread John 10:1-21 and then answer the following questions.**

- After reading today's passage turn to Ezekiel chapter 34 and read all 31 verses. The liturgy of ancient Jewish synagogues Ezek 34 was after the Feast of Tabernacles on a Sabbath when the Feast of Dedication was drawing near. Interestingly we find it in John's Gospel just after the Feast of Tabernacles and just before the Feast of Dedication. How does your reading of Ezek 34 help you understand Jesus' message in John 10?

**Day 5: Reread John 10:1-21 and then answer the following questions.**

- Have you ever thought of yourself as a sheep? Using the information you've gained so far this week spend some time reflecting on why Jesus (and other's in the Scriptures) compare human beings to sheep. Now write a paragraph or two explaining the relationship you see between sheep and humans and between sheep and yourself as a follower of Christ.

**Day 6: Reread John 10:1-21 and then answer the following questions.**

- As you come to the end of this week's study, what would you say are the two major themes of John 10:1-21? How do these themes help you better understand the relationship you have with Jesus?
- If you could summarize this passage in a sentence what would it be? How can you apply this message to your personal relationship with Jesus?

