

Jesus the Good Shepherd, Self-less love

“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I will lay down my life for the sheep”

John 10:11-18 (verses 14-15)



Adults -

Jesus the Good Shepherd wants an intimate relationship with us, in which we know one another in a sacrificial, self-giving, in which we favor this way over all the other ways of life.

1. In what ways do you listen and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd? Do you know Christ intimately?
2. We the sheep of the Good Shepherd, are also called to give of ourselves in order to provide shelter and nourishment of others. As part of the flock, how are you providing and extending this gift that Jesus offers to all?
3. Jesus tells the people, “there will be one flock, one shepherd,” which means there is a lot of work for the Christian community now and in the future. Share with someone what you think it would be like if Christians from all different traditions came together in our shared beliefs. What could we learn from one another?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Not understanding Jesus’ intentions for us.



Teens -

1. Jesus is telling us that He is the Good Shepherd in this Gospel reading . What kinds of sacrifices do shepherds make in order to take care of their sheep? How are these sacrifices similar to how Jesus takes care of us?

2. When one single sheep goes missing in a herd, a good shepherd always searches for it, calling it back to the group. What times in your life have you fallen away from God and how did He call you back?.
3. Much like a herd of sheep, human beings tend to band together in groups. These groups provide us comfort and security. Do you have a “herd” of people in your life that makes you a strong disciple of Jesus?

Obstacles: Not attending Mass often. Each week Jesus is talking to us through the Gospel readings and we have the gift of our Priest or Deacon’s homily to apply these readings to our lives. When we aren’t attending Mass, we aren’t getting the most out of Jesus’ message to us each week.

Children -

1. Jesus tells us he is the good shepherd. What does a shepherd do? What do sheep need from their shepherd?
2. Jesus tells us he will lay down his life for us. What occupations are there that people lay down their lives for others? How does that make you feel that someone would lay their life down for you? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus laid down his life for you?
3. How do your parents put your needs above their own? Have you ever put someone else’s needs in front of your own needs? What did you do? How did that make you feel? If you have not ever done this, what is one way you could do it in the future?

Obstacles: Not ever thinking about the sacrifices Jesus, our parents and other people make for us each and every day. Only thinking of ourselves and not putting someone else’s need before our own.