



NOTE: These are basic Bible studies intended to help our teachers personally grasp the “big picture” of our VBS theme. Feel free to use anything here in connecting with your students. If you have any follow-up questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Jason.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly I say to you, I am **the door** of the sheep.”
(John 10:7)

In both the Old and New Testaments, God’s people are compared to sheep. Sheep need help to survive and thrive (Matt 9:35-36), so it’s not surprising that God would compare himself to the shepherd who leads and feeds his sheep.

- “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psa 23)
- “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep...” (Ezek 34:11-16)

In John 10:1-18, Jesus used the same word picture.

“The sheepfold” (10:1), was a common way to keep sheep together and safe—a contained, walled area with one opening where the sheep could come in and go out. In fact, it was very common for the shepherd to actually lay across the opening and be “the door” of the sheepfold. That way, he could make sure that his sheep were safe from thieves (10:1, 10) and wolves (10:12).



Throughout John 10, Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd (10:2-3, 11, 14-15) and even the door of the sheep (10:7, 9). So what does he mean? What does he want? We have to “enter” the sheepfold through Jesus. He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). When we come to God through Jesus, we’ll be saved and find abundant life (10:9-10). We have to listen to him and follow his lead (10:3-4). We have to be careful not to wander off, following the lead of someone who is not our good shepherd (10:5).

The “trust and obey” connection:

- The devil is compared to a “roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pet 5:8).
- As we grow up, we don’t always listen to God the way that we should. We’re like sheep who “stray.” But Jesus is the great shepherd who laid down his life for us (John 10:11, 15, 17-18; Heb 13:20) so that we could come back home to God (1 Pet 2:24-25; Rev 7:17).
- When we listen to the voice of our good shepherd and follow his wise lead (Psa 23:1-4), we can confidently say, “I am his and he is mine” (John 10:14).