



Sunday 20th October
Following Jesus for guidance & protection
(John 10:1-21)

1. The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name

2. The Good Shepherd gives his sheep life to the full

3. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep

Questions for our midweek Growth Groups and personal reflection

Read John 10:1-21.

Why is the picture of shepherd and sheep a good metaphor used by Jesus to explain his relationship with his followers? (Think about this image used in the Old Testament as well as the farming culture that the Jews lived in).

1. The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name

How does the idea of the shepherd calling the sheep by name illustrate the personal nature of Jesus' call to us (v.3-4)?

What does v.27-29 tell us about what we receive when we respond to Jesus' call? Is the power to be saved forever in the sheep's or shepherd's control?

Do you remember first recognising the voice of Jesus calling you to follow him?

2. The Good Shepherd gives his sheep life to the full

How can the shepherd also be the gate for the sheep (v.7)?

Think of the image of the sheep going out of the pen to find pasture and back in again at night for safety – entering through the gate each time. How does this illustrate Jesus watching over & providing for our lives each day & night?

If it is important for the sheep to listen to the voice of the shepherd every day, how are you learning to listen to Jesus' voice each day? What has he been saying to you recently & how has he helped, provided & protected you?

Where is the voice of the thief (who steals, kills & destroys – v.10) most likely to shout in your life? How will you run away from it (v.5)?

3. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep

Why is Jesus obviously describing the cross in v.11 (see also v.17-18)?

How does this whole passage, plus John 6:37, give us confidence that Jesus will save all those the Father has chosen?