

## HOME DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

*Week of February 1st - February 7th, 2025*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2025**

Daily Verse: John 10:1-6

### Weekly Catechism

2. Q. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify him?

A. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph. 2:20; 2 Tim. 3:16) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him (1 Jn. 1:3).

Spurgeon, C. H. A Catechism, With Proofs. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2009.

### Sermon Notes

# The Good Shepherd

\*\*John 10:1-21\*\*

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## I. What It Is to Be a \_\_\_\_\_

- We are \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:1-6)
- We \_\_\_\_\_ off from protection and find things that harm us
- We wouldn't be able to \_\_\_\_\_ without help
- We were lost, spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ and without hope until the Good Shepherd found us

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## II. What Does It Look Like Practically?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:1-3)
- Does the \_\_\_\_\_ of those areas belong to you?

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- There has to be \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:9)
- Faith deposited in our souls by God Himself allows us to joyfully \_\_\_\_\_

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## ## III. Dangers in the \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ who climb over the wall (John 10:1-2)
- Not all \_\_\_\_\_ are real \_\_\_\_\_
- The church used to be very responsible to bring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ the flock (1 Corinthians 5:9-12, Ephesians 5:11)

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## ## IV. You Listen for the Voice of the \_\_\_\_\_

- You listen for His \_\_\_\_\_ amongst all of the ones screaming in your face (John 10:4-6)
- How do I know the sound of His voice? (The \_\_\_\_\_)

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**\*\*Key Thought:\*\* "You don't need a consultant, you need a shepherd."**

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### Referenced Bible Verses

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**\*\*Ezekiel 34:23\*\*** – "And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd."

**\*\*Micah 5:2-4\*\*** – "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth."

**\*\*Zechariah 13:7\*\*** – "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones."

**\*\*Psalm 23\*\*** (full chapter) – "A PSALM OF DAVID. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my

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cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

**\*\*Isaiah 53:6\*\*** – "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;"

**\*\*John 15:5\*\*** – "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

**\*\*1 Corinthians 5:9-12\*\*** – "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?"

**\*\*Ephesians 5:11\*\*** – "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."

## INTERESTING NOTES

**SHEPHERD.** Biblical shepherds may be literal or metaphorical: those in charge of sheep; those also, divine or mortal, in charge of men. Similar praise or censure may be applied to both types. The Heb. term for shepherd is the participial *rō'eh*, the Gk. *poimēn*. Care exercised over fellow-mortals may be political or spiritual. Homer and other secular writers frequently called kings and governors shepherds (*Iliad* 1. 263; 2. 243, etc.), a usage reflected, in deeper metaphors, in *Ezk.* 34. The literal shepherd pursued, and still pursues, an exacting calling, one as old as Abel (*Gn.* 4:2). He must find grass and water in a dry and stony land (*Ps.* 23:2), protect his charges from weather and from fiercer creatures (cf. *Am.* 3:12), and retrieve any strayed animal (*Ezk.* 34:8; *Mt.* 18:12, etc.). When his duties carried him far from human haunts, a bag held his immediate necessities (*1 Sa.* 17:40, 49), and a tent might be his dwelling (*Ct.* 1:8). He might use dogs to assist him, like his modern counterpart (*Jb.* 30:1). When shepherds and flocks take up their more permanent abode in any city, this is a mark of depopulation and disaster through divine judgment (*Je.* 6:3; 33:12; *Zp.* 2:13–15). The shepherd on duty was liable to make restitution for any sheep lost (*Gn.* 31:39), unless he could effectively plead circumstances beyond his foresight or control (*Ex.* 22:10–13). Ideally the shepherd should be strong, devoted and selfless, as many of them were. But ruffians were sometimes found in an honourable profession (*Ex.* 2:17, 19), and some

shepherds inevitably failed in their duty (*Zc.* 11, *passim*; *Na.* 3:18; *Is.* 56:11, etc.).

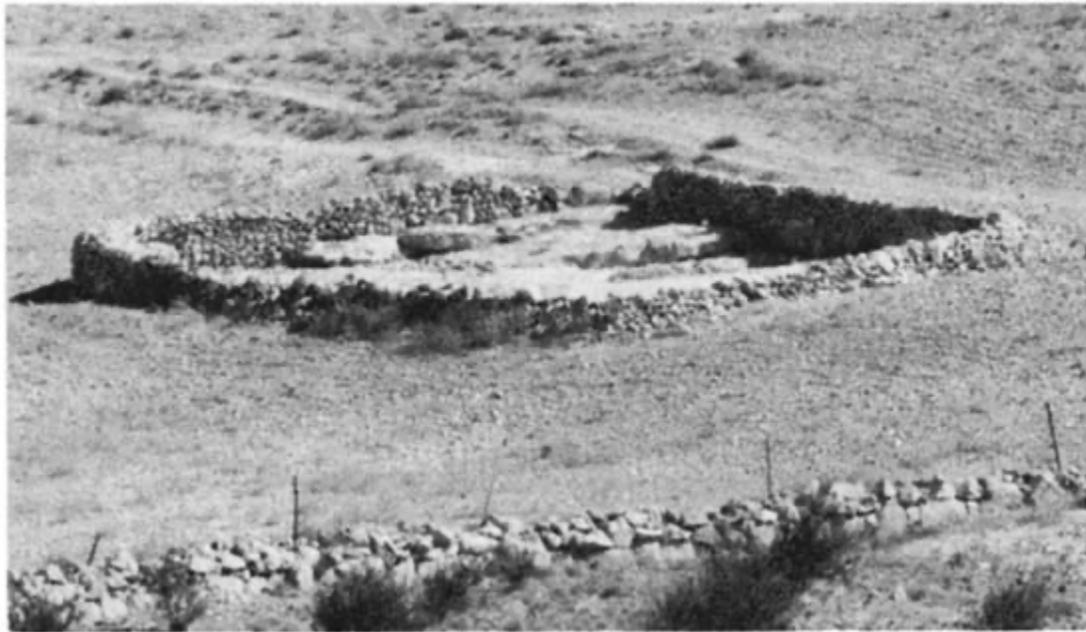
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Such is the honour of the calling that the OT frequently delineates God as the Shepherd of Israel (Gn. 49:24; Pss. 23:1; 80:1), tender in his solicitude (Is. 40:11), yet able to scatter the flock in wrath, or gather it again in forgiveness (Je. 31:10). Sometimes the note is predominantly one of judgment, when human shepherd and sheep alike stand condemned and punished (Je. 50:6; 51:23; Zc. 13:7; and Gospel applications). These unfaithful shepherds may well tremble to stand before the Lord (Je. 49:19; 50:44). Sometimes there is a note of compassion when the sheep are deserted by those responsible for them (Nu. 27:17; 1 Ki. 22:17; Mk. 6:34, etc.). Two shepherds mentioned with special approval are Moses (Is. 63:11) and, surprisingly enough, that heathen executor of God's purposes, Cyrus (Is. 44:28). Scripture earnestly stresses the serious responsibility of human leaders to those who follow them. One of the most solemn chapters in the OT is the denunciation of the faithless shepherds in Ezk. 34 (cf. Je. 23:1–4, and even more sternly Je. 25:32–38). These, for their belly's sake, have fed themselves and not their sheep; they have killed and scattered their charges for their own profit; they have grievously neglected their proper pastoral care; therefore God will re-gather the sheep and judge the shepherds. He will in fact appoint one shepherd (Ezk. 34:23). This is critically interpreted as signifying the union of the N and S kingdoms, but it portrays much better the expected Christ.

In the NT it is Christ's mission to be Shepherd, even Chief Shepherd (Heb. 13:20 and 1 Pet. 2:25; also 1 Pet. 5:4). This is worked out in detail in Jn. 10, which merits detailed comparison with Ezk. 34. John's main points are: the iniquity of those who 'creep, and intrude and climb into the fold'; the using of the door as a mark of the true shepherd; the familiarity of the sheep with the voice of their appointed leader (modern shepherds in the E use precisely the same methods); the teachings regarding the Person of Christ, who is likened to the door (E shepherds frequently slept right across the 'door' or opening in the fold wall); likened to the good shepherd, but contrasted with the worthless hireling. John stresses also the relationship of Christ, his followers and God; the bringing into the 'one flock' of the 'other sheep' (v. 16); and the rejection of those who are not the true sheep of Christ. (Cf. Milton, *Lycidas*, esp. lines 113–131.)

Bibliography. E. Beyreuther, in *NIDNTT* 3, pp. 564–569; F. F. Bruce, 'The Shepherd King', in *This is That*, 1968, pp. 100–114; J. Jeremias, in *TDNT* 6, pp. 485–502.

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Monday, February 2nd, 2025

Daily Verse: Psalm 23

Review Weekly Catechism

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DEVOTIONAL

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Psalm 23 is a beloved scripture that speaks directly to the heart of our need for a shepherd. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," signifies complete contentment and trust in God's provision. It reminds us that under His care, we lack nothing of true necessity.

The Good Shepherd leads His sheep to green pastures and still waters, offering restoration and peace. Consider how you can rest in God's promises today, knowing He is actively providing for your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

- What does "I shall not want" mean to you personally?
- How can you practice rest and trust in God's provisions?
- Reflect on a time when God has led you beside "still waters."
  
- Thank God for His faithful provision in your life.
- Pray for trust in His daily provision and rest for your soul.

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Tuesday, February 3rd, 2025

✓ Daily Verse: John 10:9

✓ Review Weekly Catechism

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✓ DEVOTIONAL

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Jesus boldly declares, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." This statement emphasizes that Jesus is the only way to salvation and abundant life. Believing in Him grants us access to both His kingdom and the spiritual sustenance needed for our souls.

This scripture challenges us to evaluate where we seek security and fulfillment. Are we trying to "climb over the wall" through our means, or are we entering through the Door that is Christ, ensuring we are genuinely aligned with His will?

- Reflect on what it means for Jesus to be the "door" in your life.
- How can you ensure you are entering through Him and not relying on other means?
- What does finding "pasture" look like for you spiritually?
  
- Pray for the humility to recognize Jesus as the sole source of salvation.
- Ask for guidance in aligning every aspect of your life with His will.

Wednesday, February 4th, 2025

Prayer Nights at 7pm

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Thursday, February 5th, 2025

Daily Verse: Isaiah 53:6

Review Weekly Catechism

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Isaiah paints a vivid image of humanity's tendency to stray. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way." This passage offers a sobering reminder that without the leadership of the Good Shepherd, we easily wander away from God's intended path.

Contemplate the ways in which you may have strayed from God's guidance. Recognize that He actively seeks to bring you back into His fold, offering grace and forgiveness. Reflect on the importance of remaining close to Jesus and relying on Him instead of our understanding.

- Identify areas in your life where you find yourself "astray."
- What steps can you take to stay close to the Good Shepherd?
- How can you embrace and extend God's grace to others?
- Pray for awareness of stray paths and a desire to return to God's fold.
- Ask for His strength to walk in His ways consistently.

Friday, February 6th, 2025

Daily Verse: John 15:15

Review Weekly Catechism

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Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." This powerful declaration highlights the necessity of abiding in Him to bear spiritual fruit. Our ability to achieve anything of eternal value is entirely dependent on our connection to Christ.

Reflect on your relationship with Jesus. Consider the unique role He plays in your life as the source of strength, wisdom, and ability. Are you abiding in Him, allowing His life to flow through you, bearing fruit that glorifies God?

- In what ways can you deepen your connection with Christ?
- Consider the fruit being produced in your life. Does it reflect your relationship with Jesus?
- How can you remain steadfast in Christ in your daily pursuits?
  
- Pray for the grace to continually abide in Jesus.
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's help in producing fruit that glorifies God.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1ST - FAST STARTS

*Morning Services*

*9:15am*

*9:30am - Men's Group*

*11:00am*

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4TH

*Wednesday Night Services*

*7:00pm*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8TH

*Morning Services*

*9:15am*

*9:30am - Men's Group*

*11:00am*

### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH

*Fast Ends*

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

*Wednesday Night Services*

*7:00pm*

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

*Mommy and Me - Imaginasium*

*10:00am*

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15TH

*Morning Services*

*9:15am*

*9:30am - Men's Group*

*11:00am*

