



Text: John 10: 11-21

PROMISE

The Shepherd leads us through _____ and to
_____ if we _____ the shepherd.

1. The Shepherd _____ for the sheep while
_____ when life gets hard.
2. The Shepherd _____ the sheep, even when they are
_____.
3. The sheep are united only when they _____ the
_____.

One Year Bible Reading

June 28: 2 Kings 13:1-14:29, Acts 18:23-19:12, Psalm 146:1-10, Proverbs 18:2-3

June 29: 2 Kings 15:1-16:20, Acts 19:13-41, Psalm 147:1-20, Proverbs 18:4-5

June 30: 2 Kings 17:1-18:12, Acts 20:1-38, Psalm 148:1-14, Proverbs 18:6-7

July 1: 2 Kings 18:13-19:37, Acts 21:1-17, Psalm 149:1-9, Proverbs 18:8

July 2: 2 Kings 20:1-22:2, Acts 21:18-36, Psalm 150:1-6, Proverbs 18:9-10

July 3: 2 Kings 22:3-23:30, Acts 21:37-22:16, Psalm 1:1-6, Proverbs 18:11-12

July 4: 2 Kings 23:31-25:30, Acts 22:17-23:10, Psalm 2:1-12, Proverbs 18:13

June 27 & 28, 2015

PROMISES

Life Group Lesson • Week of June 28

Throughout the pages of Scripture God is likened as unto a Shepherd—the Good Shepherd who watches over His people. In fact, Israel is born from the loins of a man who owned many sheep. God called Abram to leave his homeland so “he took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan” (Genesis 12:5). The Hebrew people were nomadic from the beginning and most familiar with shepherding. Travel to Israel today and you will see shepherds most everywhere in the countryside.

When Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers who sold him into slavery, and sent for his father Jacob, he said, “I will go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘My brothers and my father’s entire family have come to me from the land of Canaan. These men are shepherds, and they raise livestock... When Pharaoh calls for you and asks you about your occupation, you must tell him, ‘We, your servants, have raised livestock all our lives, as our ancestors have always done.’ When you tell him this, he will let you live here in the region of Goshen, for the Egyptians despise shepherds” (see Genesis 46:31-34).

Moses was a shepherd. David was a shepherd. The prophet Amos was a shepherd “from the town of Tekoa in Judah” (Amos 1:1). God wanted Israel’s leaders to be good shepherds over His people, and as the leaders strayed from this mandate, God always sent prophets to warn and speak truth. “What sorrow awaits the leaders of my people—the shepherds of my sheep—for they have destroyed and scattered the very ones they were expected to care for,” says the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:1).

Read John 10:11-21

Clearly, the people in Jesus’ day understood the difference between a good shepherd and a hireling. “The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming” (vv.11b,12a).

1. What images (thoughts) come to mind as you hear these words of Jesus?

Jesus always stands between His sheep and danger. When have you experienced first-hand, or perhaps witnessed in the life of someone you love, the Lord personally protecting one of His own?

There are times when the Lord intervenes in a situation—keeps you from harm or spares you from a near-fatal incident—and you know undeniably that His love and attention are real. Sometimes encroaching danger comes from an outside force, other times it may be something we’ve brought upon ourselves. Regardless, the Lord cares for His own and protects us from more than we know.

2. In v14 Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me.” How is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep two-way?

In v15 Jesus says, “...just as my Father knows me and I know the Father.” How is the relationship between Jesus and the Father two-way?

Security doesn’t come from this world, but from the eternal truth that we are safe—snatch-proof—in the shepherd’s care. Because Jesus knew His Father intimately and trusted His Father’s plan—even though it meant suffering and death—Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life for us.

3. How does Jesus foretell of His imminent death in v18?

In this verse we see Jesus’ willingness to do whatever it takes to save us. We see His obedience to what the Father “commanded” Him to do. Notice Jesus refers to His authority. Read the following verses and write down one thing you learn from each passage regarding Christ’s authority.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (also Acts 3:17-23)

Daniel 7:13-14

Isaiah 9:6-7

Mark 2: 1-12

Mark 14:60-64

Matthew 28:18-20

Colossians 1:15-20

Unlike the hireling, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the Sheep. He is a Shepherd with authority. The writer of Hebrews says: “The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven” (Hebrews 1:3-4).

4. The Lord cares deeply for His own, so much so, that He also disciplines His own when they need it (see Hebrews 12:5-13). The psalmist said, “Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me” (Psalm 23:4b). Think of a time you experienced the Shepherd’s rod and staff, veering you back onto the path. How did His discipline “protect and comfort” you?

Perhaps you are currently experiencing the Lord’s discipline. Take heart, for He “disciplines those He loves.” Just as the Good Shepherd goes after lost sheep, remember Jesus once came looking for you. He is not going to give up on you!

5. Who do you know who is straying? Jesus said in John 10:16: “I have other sheep too, that are not in his sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.” Perhaps there is a friend or family member who needs the love of the Shepherd. Write their name (or initials) in the space below, and pray for them now. Are you willing to sacrifice for them? Are you willing to introduce them to the Jesus?