



THE SIGN OF HIS CARE

BIG IDEA: Jesus, as our Good Shepherd, knows and cares for His flock.

DATE: Sunday, February 22 and Wednesday, February 25, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 10:1-21

OPENING QUESTION

Are you a pet owner? *If you have a dog, what tricks can they do? How long did it take to train them to respond to your commands and know your voice?*

SETTING THE STAGE

In last week's lesson we ended with the healing of the man who was born blind. Following this miraculous healing, the Pharisees question the man about the source of his healing. Despite the man's testimony about Jesus's miraculous act, the Pharisees doubt his story. They begin an investigation into the man's healing, interrogating him and even bringing in his parents for questioning. Faced with the Pharisees' skepticism and pressure, the man courageously stands by his testimony, leading to his excommunication from the synagogue. Upon learning of the man's excommunication, Jesus seeks him out and reveals Himself as the Son of Man, but this is an identity the Pharisees are not willing to accept. It is immediately after this conversation that Jesus speaks about sheep, shepherds, gates and thieves and robbers. So, there is something about this illustration that connects to the events that have just taken place. Today we are not looking at a miracle but one of Jesus's I AM statements that point to His divinity.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-21 (CSB)

"Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn't enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Jesus said again, "Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. ¹³ This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just

as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” ¹⁹ Again the Jews were divided because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and he’s crazy. Why do you listen to him?” ²¹ Others were saying, “These aren’t the words of someone who is demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

DISCUSSION

Jesus the Gate

READ: John 10:1-10

- How has Jesus shown Himself to be “the gate” to you? How has he strengthened and deepened your access to God? How has He protected you?
- Jesus is the door to a rich and satisfying life. He wasn’t just talking about giving us a better life experience but giving us life from God found in Him. Would you say you are experiencing the abundant life Jesus offers? Why or why not? How would you describe the “abundant life” to someone?
- Sheep respond to the voice of their shepherd. How are you tuning your heart and mind to hear and respond to Jesus’s voice? What are some practical ways we hear His voice?

Jesus the Good Shepherd

READ: John 10:11-21

- How are you doing with listening to the Good Shepherd’s direction in your life? Are you following Him?
- How has He shown Himself to be your Good Shepherd? How is He actively caring, guiding and guarding you?
- Jesus knows you more fully than anyone ever could and loves you more fully than anyone ever could. How does this give you confidence to trust and follow Him?

RESPONSE

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus invites us to trust Him with our lives. We are like sheep - prone to wander, in need of guidance, and vulnerable without Him. By recognizing His voice, following His lead, and embracing His care, we find abundant life. Jesus’s sacrificial love, care, and unwavering protection assures that in Him, we are safe, loved, and never alone. It takes a trained and trusting ear to know His voice. What steps can you take this week to listen and obey?

READING PLAN

2/22 – Micah 5; 2/23 – Isaiah 7; 2/24 – Isaiah 9; 2/25 – Matthew 1; 2/26 – Matthew 2; 2/27 – Luke 1; 2/28 – Luke 2; *Memory Verse* – Isaiah 9:6