

SESSION 3: CHOOSE TRUST

JESUS IS
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
[JOHN 10, PSALM 23]

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."



DAILY DEVOTION: JOHN 10, PSALM 23

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. The role of the shepherd is to provide, guide, protect, discipline, and generally care for the needs of the sheep. The role of the sheep is to simply follow their shepherd.

In Jesus' analogy in John 10, the Good Shepherd is the owner of His sheep, giving Him a more vested interest in their welfare. In fact, God owns us twice. First, He owns us, because He made us (Psalm 139; Genesis 1:26-27). God created us to live in a perfect relationship with Him. However, as Isaiah 53:6 says,

"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." Isaiah 53:6

Because our sin separates us from God, Jesus chose to pay the price for our wrongdoing with His death. He bought us back with His blood and became our Owner, a second time. For those who have accepted His gift of forgiveness and restored relationship, Jesus is their Owner not only once, but twice.

A shepherd has authority over his sheep. The sheep do not find a shepherd's authority oppressive, but comforting, because the shepherd cares for them. A good shepherd has the flock's best interest in mind at all times. There is great rest in acknowledging God's authority over our lives. No matter how "out of control" a situation may feel in the moment, we can rest in knowing God, our Owner, knows us each by name and is always completely in control.

Imagine what would happen if a single sheep tried to control the flock on its own. It might be easier to imagine what would happen if a child tried to fully run the household. While kids are amazing, those burdens are not theirs to bear. In the same way, we often attempt to take on burdens which do not belong to us. We try to take daily situations under our control and simply inform God of our progress. Ask yourself this question: Am I trusting in God's ownership and authority over my life, or am I constantly fighting for control?

Purposefully set aside time to pray. Acknowledge that He is in control, and ask Him to work through you. Thank Him for being your Shepherd, your Owner and Authority. Choose to rest in His care.

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock." Isaiah 26:3-4



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INDOOR ACTIVITY: SHEEP SCRAMBLE

Materials: Different colors of construction paper (or you can use different colored markers, t-shirts, flash cards, etc.)

Directions: Assign each person a color. Tear the construction paper into smaller pieces. Scatter the construction paper pieces around the room or throughout the house. These colorful paper wads are your sheep. On your mark, kids race to collect all their sheep and return them to the sheep pen (their designated area). The first person to collect all of their sheep and put them in the pen wins.

If you have more players than colors of construction paper, work in teams.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

- How did you know which sheep belonged to you?

Good shepherds know each of their sheep. They make sure everyone else knows the sheep belong to them by placing a mark on the sheep's ear. In the same way, God knows each of you by name.

- How do people know you belong to God?
- How can they tell you apart from people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior?



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CRAFT: MY LAMB

Materials: Styrofoam ball, Cotton balls, Pipe cleaners, Scissors, Glue, Lamb face (pg. 9)

Directions: Cut two pipe cleaners in half to make the lamb's four legs. Poke the legs into the foam ball. Glue the cotton balls to the foam ball. This will be the lamb's wool. Finally, cut out the lamb's face and glue it to the cotton balls.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

This is your lamb! You made it just the way you wanted it to be, and it belongs to you. In the same way, God made each of us just the way He wants us to be. He loves us very much. We can trust God with our lives.

Psalm 100:3 says, “**Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**”

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: TRUST MY VOICE

Materials: Blindfolds, Various obstacles

Directions: Help everyone find a partner. Blindfold one of the partners. Partners stand across from each other with a wide space between them. When all blindfolded partners have their blindfolds in place, put several obstacles in the middle. On your mark, seeing partners use their voices to guide their blindfolded partners to them, without running into any obstacles. Let partners switch roles and play again.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Psalm 23:3 says the Good Shepherd guides the sheep in the “paths of righteousness.” In other words, Jesus guides us in living His right way. John 10:3 says the sheep know their shepherd’s voice. In this game, you had to trust your partner’s voice and obey them. In life, we have to trust Jesus’ voice. He knows what is best for us.



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MEMORY VERSE: FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

Materials: None

Directions: Choose one person to be the shepherd. This person makes up motions for the phrases in the verse. Everyone else must follow the shepherd. Give everyone a turn as the shepherd, making up different motions each time.

MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He loves us so much that He gave His life to pay the punishment for our sins. Have you chosen to trust Him with your life? Is Jesus your Shepherd, the Boss of your life?

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

SESSION 3: TALK ABOUT IT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. If you were a sheep, what kind of shepherd would you want to take care of you? Give examples.
2. In what ways is Jesus like a shepherd to everyone who believes in Him?
3. How do we know we can trust Jesus to be a Good Shepherd?

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

1. **Psalm 23:1** says, **"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."**
 - What do you need?
 - How has Jesus provided for you?
2. **John 10:9-11** says, **"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."**
 - Who will be saved from their sins?
 - How is Jesus like a good shepherd to us?
 - What kind of life does Jesus want for us? (Note: The words "rich and satisfying" do not mean having lots of money.)
3. **Read Psalm 23.** Make a list of ways Jesus is like a good shepherd based on Psalm 23. Make a list of reasons He is worthy of our trust.

SESSION 3: TALK ABOUT IT

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Have you decided to trust Jesus with your life? ADMIT you have sinned. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your wrong choices. Ask Him to forgive you. BELIEVE Jesus is God's Son, who died on the cross and came back to life. CHOOSE to trust Jesus with your whole life. Make Him the Lord, the Boss, of you today and everyday. TELL someone about your decision.
2. Trust is more than a feeling. Real trust involves action. How does your life show that you trust Jesus?
3. How does trusting Jesus as your Good Shepherd allow you to rest? Re-read Psalm 23 as you think about your answer.

