

WHO IS JESUS?

GETTING TO KNOW THE REAL JESUS

LESSON 1 // THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Big Idea: The best way to get to know Jesus is to understand and believe what He said about Himself. In John's Gospel Jesus declared that He is the "Good Shepherd" and that following Him as our Shepherd is the way to a truly fulfilled life.

John 10:11-15 (NIV) *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Colossians 2:8 (NLT) *Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.*

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV) *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

1 Peter 2:21 (NLT) *For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.*

Start Talking:

How has Jesus shown Himself to be the Good Shepherd in your life?

Start Thinking:

Read John 10:11-15. In these verses, what does Jesus tell us about who He is and what He does for His sheep as the Good Shepherd?

Read Colossians 2:8. In what ways do "empty philosophies," "high-sounding nonsense" and "the spiritual powers of this world" try to shepherd our thinking in ungodly ways?

Read Romans 5:6-8. How does Jesus work on the cross demonstrate His goodness to us and God's love for us?

Read 1 Peter 2:21. What does it mean to follow in Jesus' steps as our Good Shepherd? Why does this involve sacrifice and sometimes even suffering?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for a renewed commitment to following Jesus as your Good Shepherd—no matter the cost. Ask the Lord for wisdom about shutting out ungodly influences from your heart and thinking, and listening well to the Good Shepherd through His Word and His Spirit.