



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

The Good Shepherd | John 10:1-21

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: OUR PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER

Jesus, Our Gate

In John 10, Jesus refers to Himself as the gate for the sheep, symbolizing safety and access to salvation. He emphasizes that entering through Him is the only way to be saved and to find abundant life. Just as a protective gate keeps danger at bay, Jesus stands as our advocate and refuge, offering us spiritual security. By recognizing Him as our gate, we accept His guidance and protection in our lives, ensuring that we're sheltered from the destructive forces of the world.

Embracing Our 'Sheepness'

In the sermon, we learn that we are likened to sheep, often foolish, defenseless, and prone to wander. This imagery reminds us of our reliance on Jesus, the good shepherd, who knows us intimately and leads us with care. Embracing our identity as sheep isn't about feeling weak; it's a profound acknowledgment that we need Christ's love and guidance in our lives. It's crucial to remember that in our helplessness, we find strength in our dependence on Him.

The Abundant Life and Its True Meaning

Jesus promises an abundant life, but it's essential to clarify what this means. Contrary to societal beliefs, abundance is not found in material wealth or possessions but in a deep, fulfilling relationship with Him. This abundant life includes peace amidst chaos, purpose in our existence, and joy that transcends circumstances. When we align our definition of abundance with scripture, we discover that it's about spiritual richness rather than earthly comforts.

Jesus Goes Before Us

Jesus reassures us that He lays down His life for us, His sheep. This sacrificial act underlines His role as the ultimate protector. We are not alone in our struggles; when wolves (the dangers of life) assail us, our shepherd stands in defense, having already fought our battles by sacrificing Himself for our salvation. Understanding that He is willing to defend us, we can trust Him more fully and lay our cares at His feet.

Knowing His Voice

Jesus stresses the importance of knowing His voice as part of our relationship as His sheep. This discernment comes through spending time with Him in prayer, reading scripture, and living out His teachings. The more intimately we know Him, the more clearly we recognize His guidance amidst the noise of life. It's our responsibility to cultivate this connection, making space in our lives to listen and respond to His voice.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Make intentional time in your week to read the Bible and pray, listening for God's voice in your life.
- Reflect on the areas where you feel lost or vulnerable, and bring those feelings to Jesus, asking for His guidance and protection.
- Consider someone in your life who may be wandering and reach out to encourage them towards the Good Shepherd. Be a source of comfort as He would be.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask God to help you recognize His voice more clearly in your daily life.
- Pray for courage to embrace your dependence on Him, acknowledging that we all need guidance and protection.
- Lift up those who feel lost like sheep without a shepherd, asking God to draw them into His loving care.