

## Believe and Have Life

*The Gospel of John*


### John 10:1–21


**Read John 10:1–21.**

1. Jesus’ words in this passage immediately follow the healing in chapter 9. What question is everyone wrestling with? (9:16–17, 29–33, 35–38; 10:19–21)
  
2. Jesus’ illustration in verses 1–5 is one of contrasts.
  - a. With this in mind, describe each of the following. Leave space, because you will return to this chart several times.

False Shepherd/Hired Hand	Good Shepherd

- b. How do the sheep respond to the false shepherd?
  
  - c. How do they respond to the good shepherd?
  
3. Read verses 7–10. Every morning the shepherd would lead the sheep out of the sheep pen and then lead them back in at night.
  - a. What do you think is the purpose for a gate on a sheep pen?

- b. Why does Jesus describe himself as “the gate” (v. 7) rather than a gate?<sup>i</sup> (v. 9, 14:6)
4. Go back to the chart and add to your description anything new about those who are false shepherds. (v. 10)
  5. What is Jesus’ purpose for coming? (v. 10b, \* John 6:40, 51)
  6. Read verses 11–18. Fill in the chart to contrast the hired hand and Jesus, the good shepherd.<sup>i</sup>
  7. How does Jesus describe the depth of his relationship with his sheep? (vv. 14–15)
  8. In verse 16 Jesus says there are “other sheep” he must bring. Who are they? (Eph. 2:11–20)
  9. A good shepherd is willing to do whatever it takes to care for the sheep. What has Jesus done for you? (vv. 11, 15, 17–18)
  10. Ezekiel 34 is closely related to John 10. Using Ezekiel 34:1–10, go back once more to the chart and expand on how God describes the false shepherds.
  11. In Ezekiel, God promises that he will shepherd his own people. How does God do this? (Ez. 34:11–16, 23–31)  
Note: When Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd,” he declares himself the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy.
  12. What is it about Jesus, as shepherd, that you find most attractive? Thank him for specific ways you have seen his shepherding care in your life, worship him in song, or testify to his love.

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

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<sup>i</sup> “In this absolute and exclusive sense this saying is on a level with all the great ‘I am’ sayings that proclaim the unique redemptive significance of Jesus’ coming and work.” (Herman Ridderbos, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997), 357.)