

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – May 8-13
Doing Life Together – Sheep

MONDAY: John 10:11, 1 Peter 2:25, Psalm 78:52

KEY VERSE: Psalm 23:1

OBSERVATION: The best thing about being a sheep is that we belong to the “Good Shepherd.” Sheep belong to the Shepherd, who owns them. Under His care, they are tenderly looked after, and all of their needs are met. As David put it, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing” (Psalm 23:1). He leads us; He protects us, and He goes after us when we wander too far from Him. And best of all, He gave His life for the sheep, so that we might have eternal life.

TUESDAY: John 17:12, Luke 12:32,

KEY VERSE: Matthew 18:12-14

OBSERVATION: the people Jesus was speaking to would have been very familiar with sheep. Shepherds were common in the first century. A shepherd led his flock in and among the hills of Palestine searching for the best grass and water. Bears, leopards, jackals and even hyenas were known to roam the hills of Palestine. The shepherd often risked his life to protect the sheep from these dangers. A shepherd spent a great deal of time with his sheep and most likely knew each one by name. Every sheep was important and his goal is to keep every one of them safe.

WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 27:23, 1 John 4:6

KEY VERSE: John 10:3-5

OBSERVATION: A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." A prominent Christian businessman sent me an article recently on some of the teaching and preaching of the television evangelists who keep telling people that, if they come to Christ, God will make them rich. The man wrote across the top of the article, "There's something wrong with this!" They are amazed that this Blessed One, this Sinless Lord, this Matchless Christ would consent to die for his own. But that is the mark of the Good Shepherd.

THURSDAY: Isaiah 40:11, Ezekiel 34:23,

KEY VERSE: John 10:11-15

OBSERVATION: The disciples never could get over the fact that Jesus loved them so much he was willing to die for them. Many of the epistles of Paul, of John and James and Peter contain awestruck references to this. John writes in Revelation, "Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood," (Revelation 1:5 KJV).

FRIDAY: Hebrews 3:7, Acts 3:23

KEY VERSE: John 10:27

OBSERVATION: We have an amplification of the same truth in verses 4-5. In the east the shepherd leads the flock, and what do the sheep do? They follow their true shepherd. Here is another test as to whether we really are His sheep! Do we follow Him?

SATURDAY: Luke 6:26, Matthew 24:24

KEY VERSE: Matthew 7:15

OBSERVATION: Use caution in who you listen to and choose to take guidance from. Sometimes when we're in a place where it's hard to see clearly, maybe because of our own pressing worries or cares, we need a trusted friend who can speak truth in places we need to hear.