



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 31, 2011

Sermon

Lessons in Stained Glass:

"The Good Shepherd"

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 8/1/11

Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..." This is the most familiar psalm known by many and even ingrained in the memories of a lot of people. Why is this psalm so well known? Perhaps it is the image of the shepherd who knows and loves his sheep and cares for them no matter what happens. The Lord is our shepherd! What does it mean for the Lord to be your shepherd? Do you trust in him all the time?

Tuesday 8/2/11

John 15:1-7

Jesus' parable is clear: the good shepherd leaves the 99 sheep to search for the one who is lost. To some of us today this doesn't make much sense. Why risk the safety of the 99 for the 1 who wandered away and got lost? Do the needs of the one outweigh the needs of the many? These shepherds all found this to be the standard. How many times does our church do the same? Or are we just content to care for our own needs instead of the lost, lonely, and others who are not currently part of our church family? Maybe we need to be more like the loving shepherd who willingly reaches out to the lost!

Wednesday 8/3/11

John 10:1-6

Jesus explains the function of the sheepfold and the shepherd in this passage. The sheepfold provided safety for the sheep. The shepherd would lay down at the gate or entrance to the sheepfold so that if anything came to attack or steal the sheep he would be there to protect them. Thieves and predators would attack in different places than the gate the shepherd was protecting. And the sheep know the voice of their shepherd. Do you know how much Jesus loves, cares, and protects you? Do you know the voice of your Good Shepherd?



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 31, 2011

Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Reach out to the lost and lonely, and not just those with whom I am comfortable...

Count on the care and love of Jesus my Good Shepherd!

Thursday 8/4/11
Isaiah 53:6

It is easy to point our finger at the lost sheep and blame him for wandering away from the protection of the fold. That is until we suddenly realize that we are no better. The scriptures are clear: **"All we like sheep have gone astray!"** It is easy to forget this once we are involved and active in the church. We sometimes mistakenly believe that we are then better than others, but we are not. We all make mistakes and drift away, but thankfully our Shepherd comes searching to rescue and save us! Let us rejoice when the lost are found!

Friday 8/5/11
Genesis 48:15-16

In this story Jacob is blessing his grandchildren and reminiscing about how God was with him all through his entire life. Jacob was blessed and he knew it. He was blessing his grandchildren with this same protective, reassuring presence of God. God was like a shepherd to him all the days of his life and he bestowed this same blessing on his grandchildren. Life is not always easy and this grandfather knew it. He wanted his grandchildren to have the same blessing that he experienced--a God, who like a shepherd, was always there to protect and guide him!

Saturday 8/6/11
John 10:27

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He knows each one of us. Just as a shepherd knows each of his sheep, Jesus knows each one of us. When the sheep hear their shepherd's voice they follow him. They put their complete trust in him and they follow him. Do you put your trust in Jesus? Are you willing to trust him enough to follow him? There is no better shepherd than Jesus. Learn to know his voice and be sure to follow him!