

## 28.67c The Good Shepherd (John 10:1–21; cf. Ezekiel 34 for the negative aspect of shepherds)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) CEF’s John flannelgraph, Vol. 2, Lesson 1

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *shepherd*: a person who takes care of sheep. “The word is used figuratively to represent the relation of rulers to their subjects and of God to his people; sometimes the word *pastor* is used instead” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/shepherd/>).
- *sheepfold*: an enclosure sometimes made of stone with a door where the shepherd leads in or brings out the sheep; the shepherd himself, perched in the doorway, is the door to the sheepfold
- *discourse*: a sermon or speech
- *Gentiles*: all people not of the Jewish race [In most situations, most if not all students will be Gentiles.]
- *Jews*: descendants of Jacob/Israel

### Scripture Passage (NASV):

John 10:1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

7 So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. 13 *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

19 A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?” 21 Others were saying, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”

### Introduction/Review:

Today this story will talk about the work of a shepherd. The duties of a shepherd in . . . Palestine were very difficult and troublesome. In early morning he led . . . the flock from the fold, marching at its head to the spot where they would pasture. Here he watched them all day, taking care that none of the sheep strayed. If any . . . wandered away from the rest, the shepherd looked diligently until he found and brought the sheep back. In those lands . . . water . . . has to be found—either a running stream . . . wells dug in the wilderness and furnished with troughs. At night he brought the flock home to the fold, counting them as they passed under the rod at the door to be sure none were missing. But his work was not done. Often he had to guard the fold through the night from the attack of wild beasts or prowling thieves” (adapted from <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/shepherd/>).

In our last story Jesus had healed the man born blind. That man, daring to instruct the Jews of God’s work in general and in his own personal life, had been put out of the synagogue. What did that mean? He could no longer be taught there, could not get a job, and could not trade or conduct business. This was a big deal. Those who had put out the man born blind were supposed to be leaders, like shepherds.

### **Story:**

#### ***Thieves, robbers, and hired men***

Jesus directed His next discourse to these religious leaders. This sermon is sometimes entitled “The Good Shepherd,” but its first words were not about the Good Shepherd. Rather, Jesus began with thieves and robbers, a good description of the scribes and Pharisees who opposed Him and His work. Jesus had said they were blind. They had cast out the man cured of blindness. They considered Christ to be false and a deceiver. Yet they set up themselves to be shepherds— guides and rulers (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-10-1.html>).

In His message Jesus described these men as not entering by the door into the sheepfold but climbing up some other way like thieves and as coming only to steal and kill and destroy. A hired hand was no better, for he would see a wolf coming and leave the sheep, fleeing so that the wolf snatched the sheep and scattered them. He, too, was not concerned about the sheep.

#### ***The Good Shepherd***

On the other hand, in describing the Good Shepherd—Himself— Jesus said, “He who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow but will flee from a stranger because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Consider this beautiful picture! Those who know Jesus Christ as their Saviour can put their names into this passage and enjoy the loving relationship it describes: “I,\_\_\_\_\_, hear Jesus’ voice as He calls me by my name and leads me. I follow Him because I know Him.”

#### ***The Door***

The scribes and Pharisees, of course, could not understand what Jesus was saying. So Jesus explained again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

Understand that being the “door of the sheep” means Jesus is like the shepherd who stayed in the doorway of the sheepfold. He is the only way into the sheepfold—by type, into salvation. He clearly explained, “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

How does He save His sheep? The Good Shepherd “lays down His life for the sheep.” He died in the place of believers to rescue them from their sin. Jesus not only died but also was resurrected to prove His ability to save. Jesus said, “I lay down My life so that I may take it again; I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.” Who but God could say he had ability and authority to lay down his life (to die) and to take up this life again (to rise from the dead)?

Jesus knows His sheep—believers. And Jesus said believers know Him just as the Father knows Jesus and

Jesus knows the Father.

How can we know God even as Jesus knows the Father? By being His sheep and learning about the Father in His Word.

### ***Other sheep***

The Jews thought they were God's special people, and, in a way, they were. But Jesus said they were not the only ones for whom Jesus died. "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold," He said. "I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice."

Who are these other sheep? Gentiles: that's us [if, indeed, no Jewish students are present]. Jesus continued, "They will become one flock with one shepherd." The one flock will be the church, made up of both Jews and Gentiles. We can rejoice that the Lord is our Good Shepherd who saves, protects, and leads His own.

That's the end of Jesus' story about the shepherd, but John, the disciple who wrote this book of John, records that people were again divided because of Jesus' words. "Many of them were saying, 'He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?' Others were saying, 'These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?'"

Jesus definitely did not have a demon, and He *had* healed the man born blind.

These people, full of their own ideas and self-righteousness, failed to see in Jesus their only hope for salvation. The Good Shepherd gave His life for His sheep. Are you one of His sheep?

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Jesus is God:

Jesus is the only way of salvation, being the Door. "If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).

He gives abundant life (John 10:10).

He has authority to lay His life down in death and authority to take it up again in resurrection (John 10:18).

He fulfills the prophecy of Ezekiel 34:23: "I will set up on shepherd over them . . . even my servant David."

- "The church may be compared to a sheepfold, because it is separated from the world: it is where the people of God, and sheep of Christ are gathered together; where there is a strict union between them; have society with each other; keep one another warm and comfortable; and where they are fed and nourished, and are preserved; and where they lie down and have rest" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-10-1.html>).

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: sheep; shepherd; shepherd's staff; sheepfold; wolf
- Before class print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the download.
- Sing first stanza of "I Am the Door" found below. Repeat last phrase with the words, "John 10 verse 4."
- Snack: Use  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a boxed cake mix (preferably a dark-colored flavor) to make cupcakes and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to make cookie dough, adjusting the recipes on the box. Cut about 12 small circles out of the cookie dough with a 1-inch bottle cap and shape into ovals for sheep heads. Cut out 6 more circles and cut into quarters.

Shape the quarters so that they look like sheep's ears. Cut 6 circles in half for the tails. Bake.

For eyes, put two dots of frosting on each cookie head; put a mini chocolate chip on each frosting eye.

One at a time, frost cupcakes with white frosting and attach the cookie head, ears, and tail to the frosting. Cover the frosting with mini marshmallows that you have flattened with your fingers. For black lambs, cover with mini chocolate chips and no marshmallows. (These instructions are a composite from several internet sites.)



- Play “Sheepfold.” Divide students into two teams. One team forms a sheepfold by holding hands in a circle. The other team, inside the circle, tries to get out of the fold by ducking under hands (not by breaking the grips of the sheepfold students). Children try to prevent sheep from escaping by lowering their hands. Switch sides when all the sheep have escaped or after a determined amount of time (Shining Star Publications #SS2827, p. 50).
- Play-act being a shepherd, thieves, and sheep. The teacher will randomly read, one at a time, the actions on the chart found below. If the shepherd reads a “thief” action, the student-sheep will scatter. If the shepherd mentions a “Good Shepherd” action, the sheep will come back to their seats (the fold). (For a less active version, students may remain in their seats and make a scattering motion with their hands when they hear a thief action and walk their fingers when recognizing a shepherd description.)
- Review questions: (Game: If a student answers a question correctly, [s]he may place a sheep on a flannel board or in a pocket chart. Use the sheep pattern found below.)
  1. Tell one thing that thieves, robbers, or hired men do with sheep. [Climb into the fold rather than go through the door; cause sheep who don't know them to flee; come only to steal, kill, and destroy; see the wolf coming and leave the sheep.]
  2. Who is the door to the sheepfold? [The shepherd.]
  3. Fill in the blanks. Jesus said, “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be \_\_\_\_\_, and will go in and out and find \_\_\_\_\_.” [Saved; pasture.]
  4. Fill in the blank. Jesus said, “The good shepherd lays down His \_\_\_\_\_ for the sheep.” [Life.]
  5. Fill in the blanks. Jesus said, “I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.” [Me; know; Father.]
  6. When Jesus said He has other sheep that are not of this fold, about whom was He speaking? [Gentiles.]
  7. What did Jesus mean by saying He had authority to lay down His life and take it again? [To die and rise again.]
  8. What were the divided opinions about Jesus? [“He has a demon and is insane,” or, “These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?”]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- John 10:9—[Jesus said,] “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”
- Review Psalm 23.

### Handwork:

- Print on card stock the pages below showing circles of legs and Jesus' leading sheep and children. Cut out the circles of legs and the cut-out areas below the boy, girl, and sheep. Color all. Attach leg circles with sewing snaps at the dots on the figures. To simulate walking, cut off the picture at the bottom of the cut-out areas and move the picture across a rough, flat surface so that the leg circles turn.
- Or students may color the take-home booklet mentioned in “Activities.”

**shepherd**

**sheepfold**

**discourse**

**Gentiles**

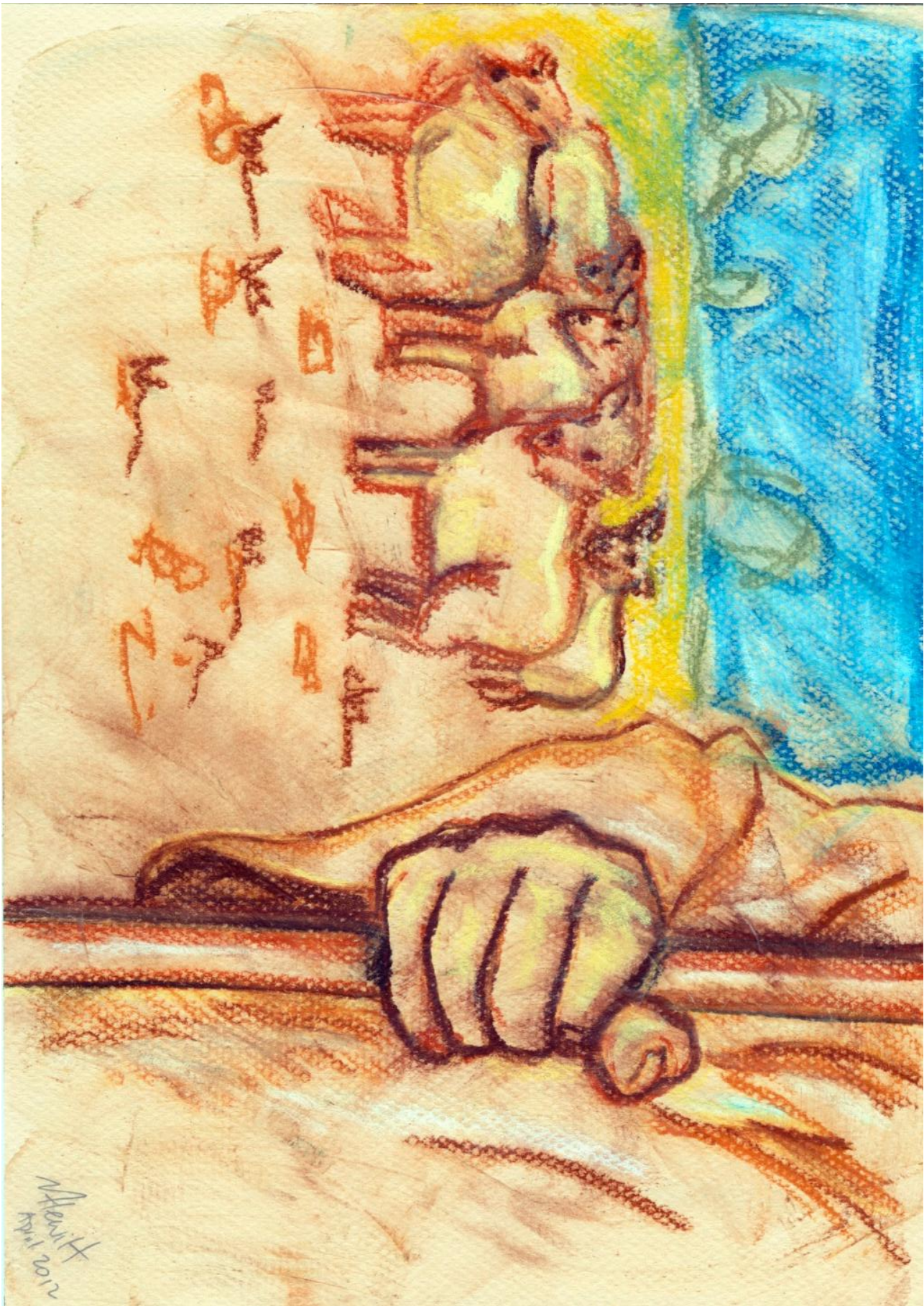
**Jews**



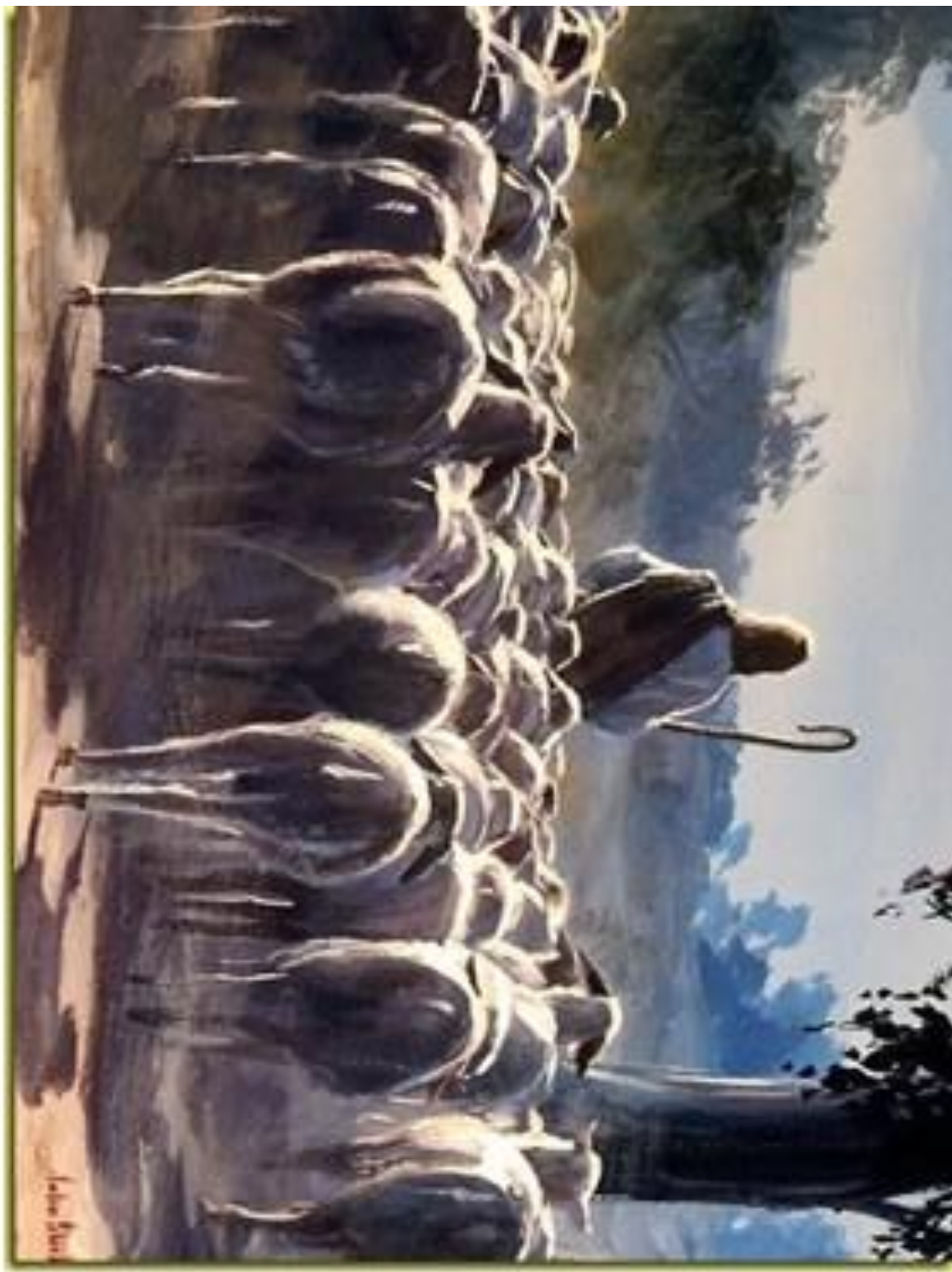












## **Thieves in John 10**

- **do not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep but climb up some other way (v. 1)**
- **cause sheep to flee from them because they do not know the voice of strangers (v. 5)**
- **come only to steal and kill and destroy (v. 10)**
- **see the wolf coming and leave the sheep and flees; are not concerned about the sheep (vv. 12, 13)**

## **The Good Shepherd in John 10**

- **enters by the door (v. 2)**
- **speaks and the sheep know his voice (v. 3)**
- **calls his own sheep by name (v. 4)**
- **leads them out, going ahead of them (v. 5)**
- **causes sheep to follow him because they know his voice (v. 6)**
- **is the door of the sheep (vv. 7, 9)**
- **saves those who enter through Him and nourishes them (v. 9)**
- **comes that they may have life—abundant life (v. 10)**
- **lays down His life for the sheep (vv. 11, 15)**
- **knows His own and they know Me, even as the Father knows Him and He knows the Father (vv. 14, 15)**
- **has other sheep, not of this fold, whom He must bring and who will hear His voice, becoming one flock with one shepherd (v. 16)**
- **has authority to lay His life down and take it up again (v. 18)**

23

## I AM THE DOOR

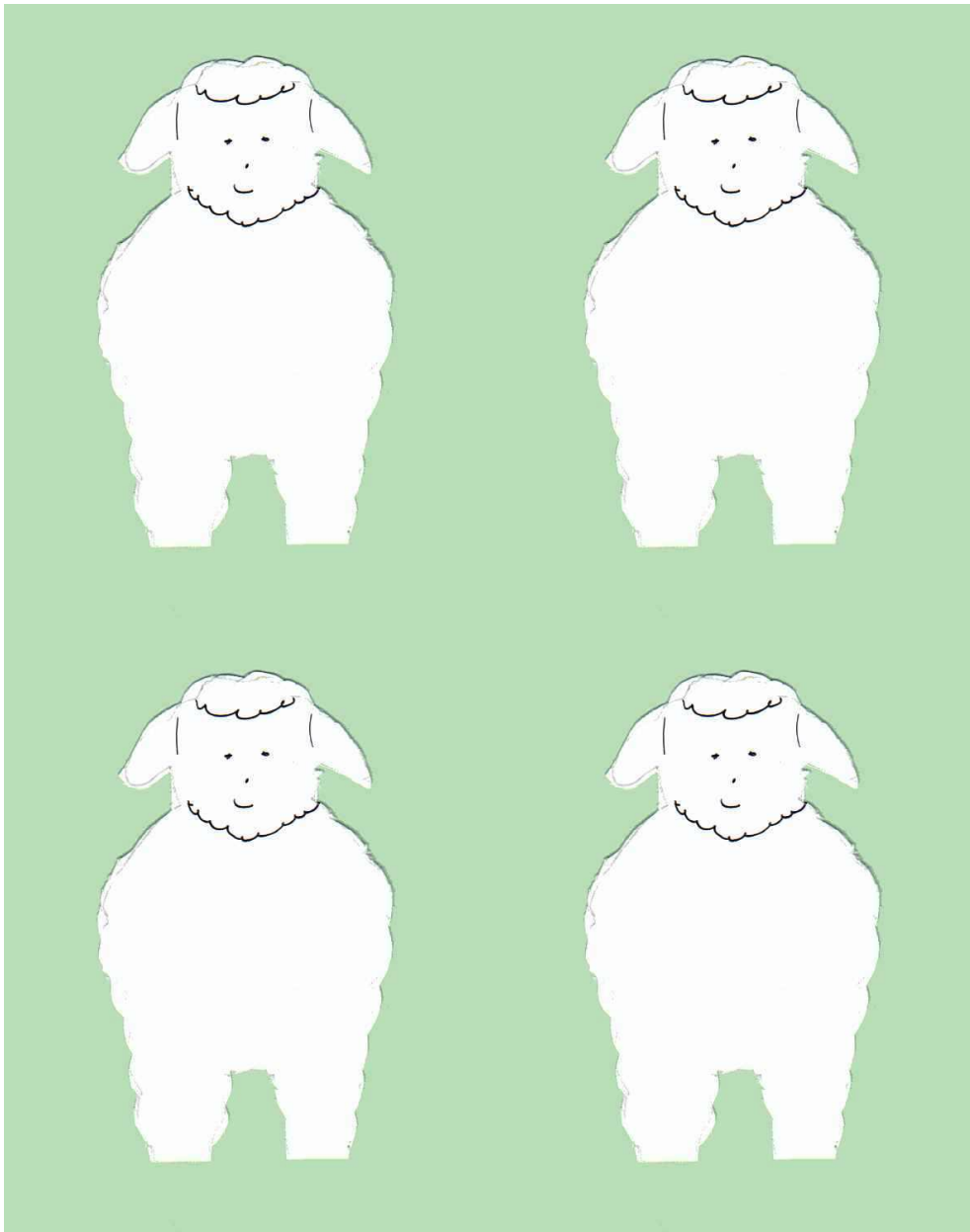
John 10:9

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 8/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

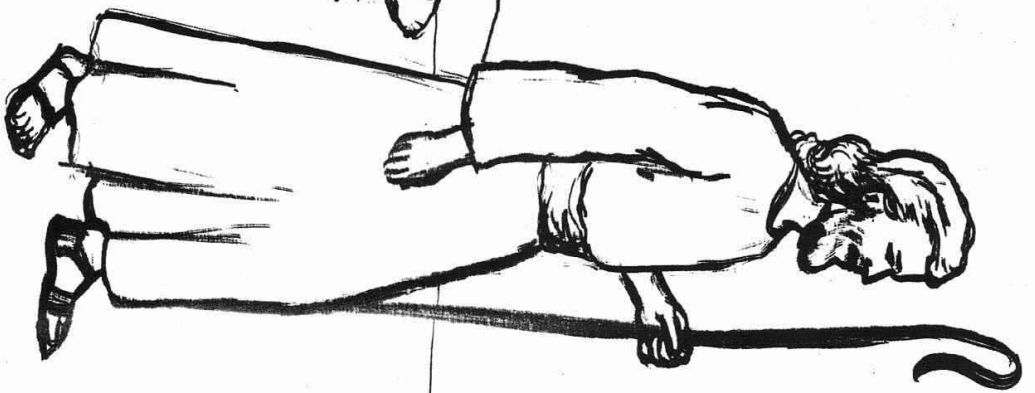
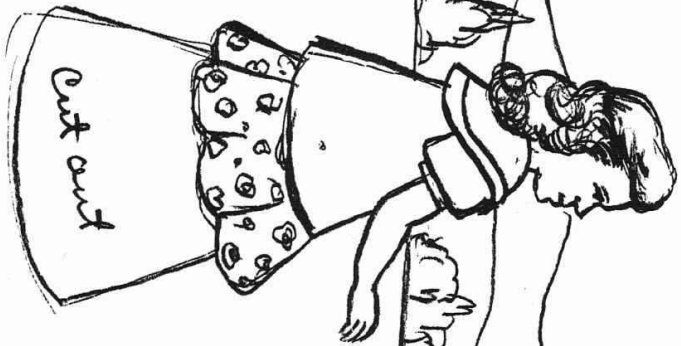
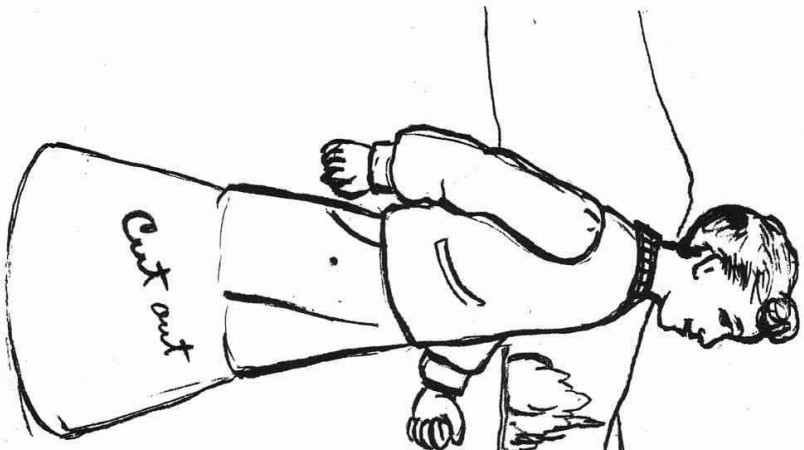
I am the Door, — I am the Door, By Me if an - y man  
I am the Door, the words are but four, Mil-lions are in, but there's

en - ter in — He shall be saved, He shall be saved, He shall be saved.  
room for more, The door's o - pen wide, Come right inside, and thou shalt be saved.

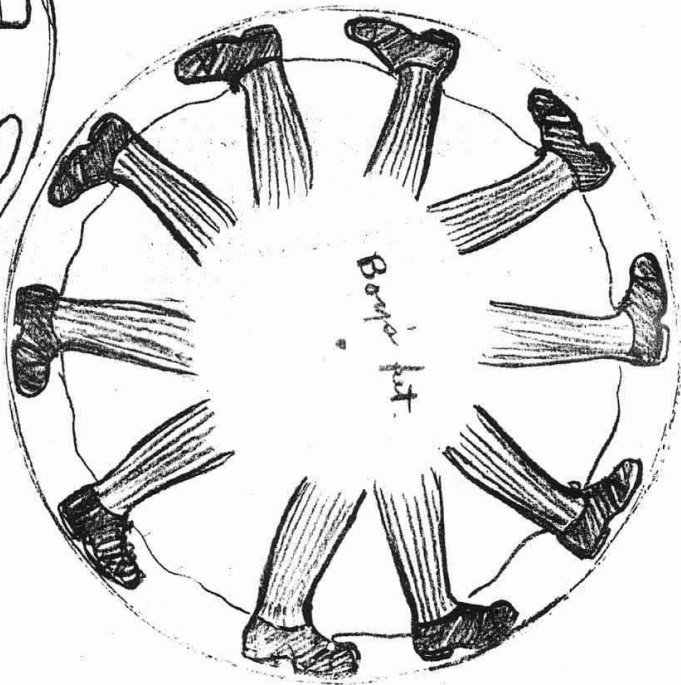
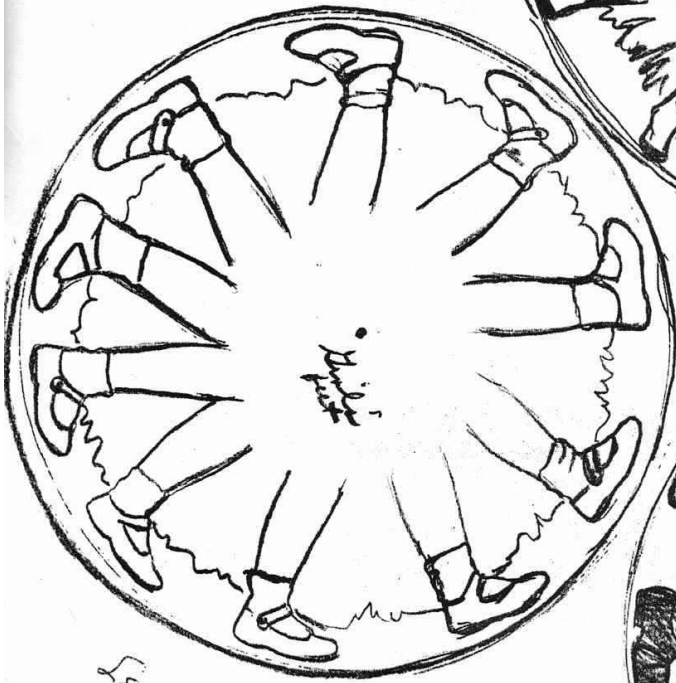
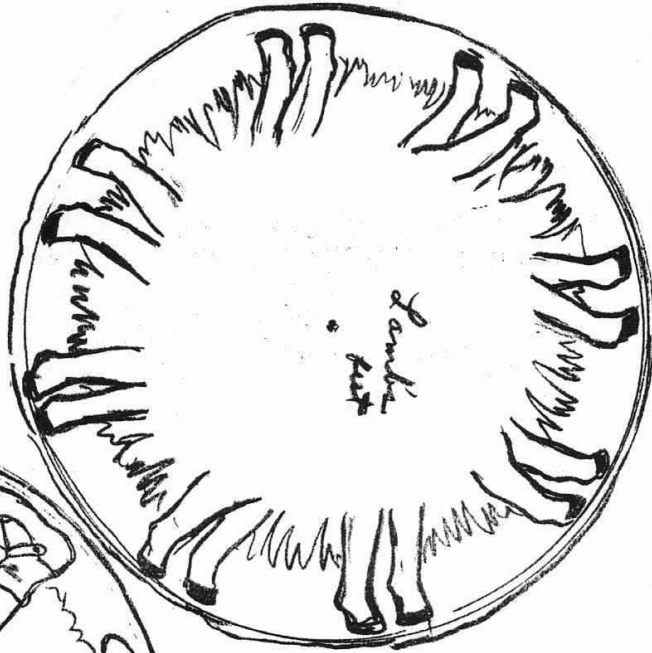
Salvation Songs for Children, Number One, Song #23, Child Evangelism Fellowship







Cut out circles - fasten with a broad  
to the back of knee, gird & bands.



Lesson 13