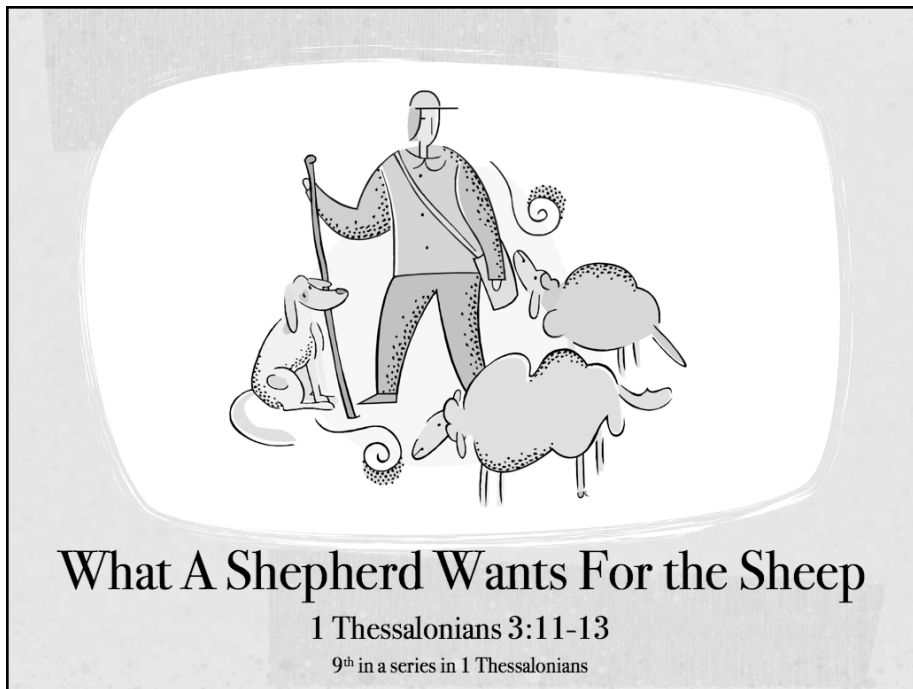


Daily Bible Study Guide for June 8–13, 2009



¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:11–13

The Bible often uses the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep to reflect the relationship between God and His people. The same analogy is used of spiritual leaders and God’s people.

This analogy is significant because sheep are dependent (not stupid, as some claim that they are). A sheep’s survival is dependent on the skill and care of the shepherd. Also, those who originally heard the shepherd/sheep analogy would have quickly identified with it.

This week we will learn much about what a spiritual shepherd wants for his sheep.

Monday, June 8

Read: 1 Thessalonians 3:11–13

1. What, if anything, does this passage have to do (directly or indirectly) with shepherds and sheep?

2. What is significant or important about Paul’s desire in verse 11?

3. Why are the horizontal relationships in verse 12 important?

4. Verse 13 starts with “so that.” Grammatically, there is a cause in verse 12 that creates an effect in verse 13. How does that cause affect our holiness?

5. Discussion/Application: How, specifically, has God caused you to increase and abound in love for others?

Tuesday, June 9

Read: Psalm 23

1. What difference does it make that the Lord is your shepherd? (verse 1)

2. Paraphrase the four things your shepherd does for you. (verses 2 and 3)

3. Notice that verses 1–3 refer to God in the third person (the Lord), but verses 4 and 5 refer to Him in the second person (You). What is happening to the sheep in verses 4 and 5? What is the Lord doing in those verses?

4. Chuck Swindoll once said that “goodness and lovingkindness” are spiritual sheepdogs that follow us all through our lives. How have God’s goodness and lovingkindness been a recent blessing to you?

5. Discussion/Application: What does Psalm 23 mean to you?

Wednesday, June 10

Read: John 10:1–18

1. The door to which Jesus referred in verse 1 is a gate that allows people and animals into and out of a sheep pen. Applying the figure of speech used in verses 1–6 to a church setting, how do we know when a pastor is truly a shepherd from God?

2. What behaviors mark a genuine shepherd and genuine sheep? (1–6)

3. The sheep pen is an illustration of eternal life. What is the danger of passing through any other spiritual door than Jesus? (7–10)

4. What is the difference between a good shepherd and a hired hand? (11–15)

5. Discussion/Application: Who are the other sheep Jesus is referring to? (Hint: Jesus was talking to Jewish leaders who thought only the super-righteous Jews would go to heaven. See John 9)

Thursday, June 11

Read: 1 Peter 2:11–25

1. What is the point of verses 11–12?

2. What is the point of verses 13–17?

3. What is the point of verses 18–24?

4. Why do you think Peter wrote what he did in verse 25?

5. Discussion/Application: How can the content of today's study help you or another person cope more effectively with the pain and frustration of living in a broken world?

Friday, June 12

Read: Acts 20:17–38

1. How was Paul's past any different from his future? (17–23)

2. Why did Paul say what he did in verses 24–27?

3. What warning did Paul give in 28–31?

4. In what way might "wolves" have infiltrated the flock? In what way do "wolves" do that today?

5. Discussion/Application: What is/are the key(s) to protecting the flock of God? (verses 32–38)

Saturday, June 13

Read: The verses below and indicate what God says about shepherds (spiritual or otherwise) who are unfaithful in their duties.

1. Jeremiah 10:21

2. Jeremiah 23:1–4

3. Ezekiel 34:1–19

4. Ezekiel 34:20–31

5. Discussion/Application: In what ways can you support the shepherds (elders) of SeaTac Bible Church?
