

Shepherd of Our Hearts (7/31/22)

Main Verses: John 6-10 (10:22-27)

Key Verse: John 10:27

'Takeaway': While his words and works can leave many people confused and cold toward Jesus, those who truly belong to him by God's grace (his sheep) will listen and follow.

Getting Started: What kind of person do you like to talk to and hang out with? Why?



READ the main verses— John 10:22-27 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What did the people think Jesus was keeping them “in suspense” about?
- How did Jesus answer them?
- Who are the “sheep”?

Elementary:

- What is the Feast of Dedication?
- Why did the people say, “If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”
- How did Jesus respond to them? Who are His sheep?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- If we belong to Jesus, we hear his voice and follow him.
- God gives his flock the ability to believe and gives them a new heart to follow him.
- The people who were not in his flock had hardened hearts and they did not know who Jesus was even though he had told them and shown them by many signs and wonders.

Elementary:

- The Feast of Dedication was a celebration of the rededication of the Jewish temple in December 164 B.C. Today, Jewish people call this festival Hanukkah.
- The people asking Jesus to tell them plainly who he was had hardened hearts. Despite the signs and wonders, and despite his teaching, they could not see who he was.
- God by His grace must give his sheep the ability to believe and make them part of his flock with a new heart.
- Jesus' sheep recognize his voice. They listen to him and follow him.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for Jesus, and for giving us new hearts that can hear and follow him. Ask God to help you to hear and follow him every day.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for Jesus. Thank him for sending Jesus so that through faith in him, God will graciously give us new hearts that can hear and follow him. Talk to God about your relationship with him. Ask him to be the Shepherd of your life.

Admit you are a sinner and that you have made yourself the center of your world. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom and eternal life with God. **Commit** now to following him.