

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 10

Days 109 - 120

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:1</p>	<p>God is our shepherd. He was their shepherd. (Psalm 23) Those who set themselves up as leaders over God's people, and do not act in the interest of the sheep, are not true shepherds.</p>	<p>What does it mean to follow God, as a sheep follows a shepherd?</p>
<p>John 10:2</p>	<p>Jesus is the True Shepherd, sent to be the fulfillment of the promise through David in Ezekiel 34:20-24.</p>	<p>What special benefits come from following the One whom God sent to be my shepherd?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:3</p>	<p>Jesus is the true shepherd. He has authority and permission to come and claim those who truly belong to God. People who know the Scriptures recognize that Jesus is the true shepherd sent from God. When Jesus calls to one of his own, they recognize that it is the true shepherd speaking, and they follow him.</p>	<p>How do I recognize Jesus' voice or leading in my life? (II Timothy 3:16)</p>
<p>John 10:4</p>	<p>When Jesus leads, we follow his leading, because we know him and recognize that he is the one who loves us and cares for us, protects and provides for us, and goes ahead of us to bless our lives.</p>	<p>Can I trust Jesus to take care of me today? Have I asked him? (Luke 12:27-31)</p>
<p>John 10:5</p>	<p>If we study the Scriptures, we learn what pleases God. Someone who does not fit with what we know about God from Scripture is not someone to follow. The hearts of the Jewish leaders at that time had grown far from God and his priorities of showing love for his people, so they were not acting as God intends his shepherds to act. They were not caring for the people, but were consumed with caring for themselves.</p>	<p>Am I caring for God's people, or am I consumed with caring for myself? What evidence in my life reveals my true priorities?</p>

Day 110 ***Read John 10:3-5***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:6</p>	<p>They did not understand that Jesus was their shepherd. Those who reject Jesus' deity cannot accept him as their shepherd.</p>	<p>How can I experience Jesus as my shepherd today?</p>
<p>John 10:7</p>	<p>Jesus keeps presenting the truth to those who are closed to the truth.</p>	<p>Should I be discouraged or stop praying or witnessing to someone who rejects Jesus?</p>
<p>John 10:8</p>	<p>False prophets continually come throughout history, claiming to be gods.</p>	<p>What are the most important differences between Jesus and others who have claimed to be gods? (Philippians 2:5-11)</p>
<p>John 10:9</p>	<p>At the time Jesus lived on the earth, sheep were kept safe in a sheepfold and the shepherd could act as the only gate, allowing them to come and go under his care. In a best case scenario, the sheep were provided with their needs by a good shepherd who had their best interests at heart.</p> <p>Jesus is the only way (gate) to God. If we come to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we are safe.</p>	<p>What does it mean to be in Jesus' care?</p> <p>How does it feel to be safe in Jesus today?</p>

Day 111 **Read John 10:6-9**

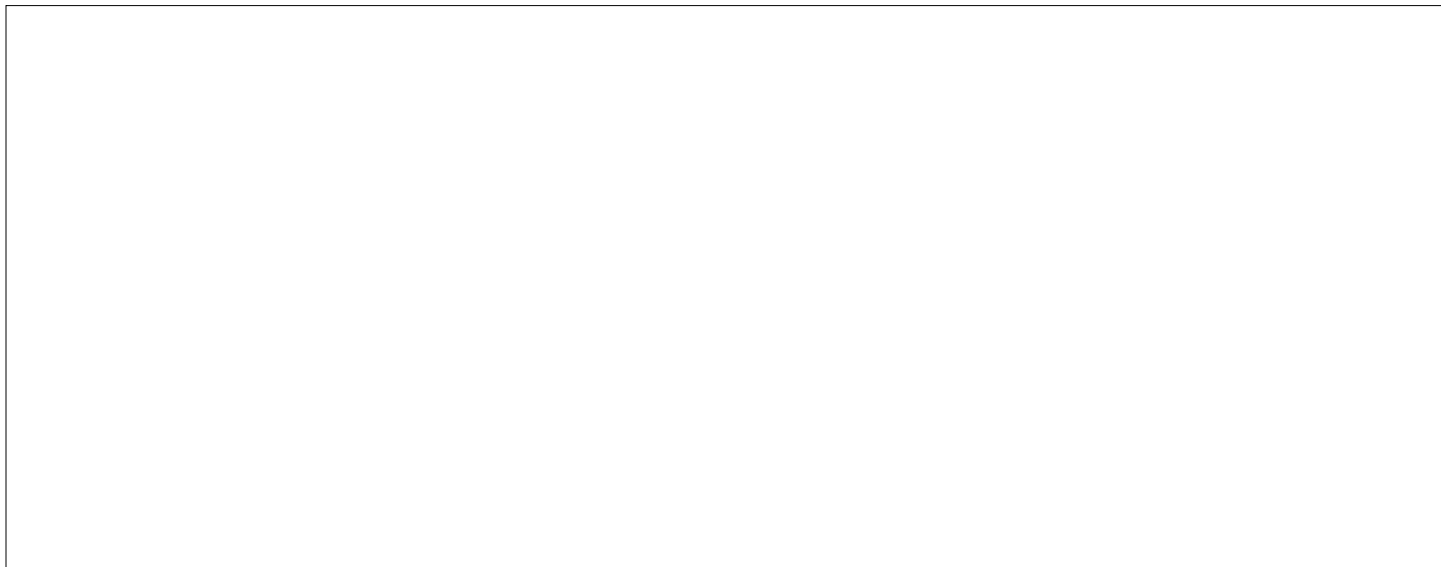
What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:10</p>	<p>Motives are revealed by the outcomes or fruit of our actions. Jesus stated the difference between himself and someone whose intention is not to care for the sheep, but to take what he can for himself. Jesus came to give his life to gain life for us.</p>	<p>What does Satan, the thief, want for me? (John 8:44)</p> <p>What does Jesus want for me?</p> <p>What are my motives and how are they revealed in how I treat others?</p>
<p>John 10:11</p>	<p>Just as a shepherd who cares about his sheep risks his life for their safety, Jesus was willing to give up his own life to give life to us.</p>	<p>What does having a <i>good</i> shepherd over me, one who would give his life for me, mean in practical, everyday terms on a day to day basis?</p>

Day 112 **Read John 10:10-11**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:12</p>	<p>The owner is more invested than a hired manager. He has invested himself and all he has in the outcome. If we depend on someone other than Jesus, we will be disappointed. Jesus owns the sheep. He and the Father are one.</p>	<p>How much does God care about me and why?</p> <p>Can I entrust my life to Jesus today? Why?</p>
<p>John 10:13</p>	<p>A hired manager only cares about himself and his own success. He is not invested in the product. It does not belong to him and he will not risk all for its success.</p>	<p>Have I ever been mistreated or abandoned by someone who claimed to be a shepherd?</p> <p>Has God given me sheep to watch over?</p>
<p>John 10:14</p>	<p>We should recognize Jesus as our shepherd. We belong to him if we believe he is the one and only Son of God.</p>	<p>When bad things happen, will Jesus ever mistreat or abandon me? How do I know?</p>

Day 113

Read John 10:12-15

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 10:15 	God wants us to be blessed. He gave his Son to bless us. Jesus laid down his own life, of his own choice, to give us life, to give us abundant, blessed, on-going spiritual life with God.	Do I have the blessings of on-going, abundant spiritual life with God? How can I experience that kind of life?

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:16</p>	<p>Jesus knew that he was sent first to the Jewish people, but also to all the peoples of the world. (Review Isaiah 42:6-7 and 49:6) As believers in Christ we are all one body, no matter what our race. (Ephesians 3:6)</p>	<p>How does God's intention that we all (all people groups) belong to Jesus, as one flock, affect the way I live my life?</p>
<p>John 10:17</p>	<p>See Philippians 2:8-9. Jesus chose to give his life in obedience to the Heavenly Father. He also took it up again, in accordance with God's plan.</p>	<p>What resulted from Christ's obedience?</p>
<p>John 10:18</p>	<p>It was God's intention for Jesus to give his life. It was Jesus' obedient choice to give his life. The goal was to rescue us from the penalty of death for our sins. The sins of both Jews and Gentiles (Gentiles are all who are not Jews) put Jesus on the cross. The risen Jesus is Lord of both Jew and Gentile.</p>	<p>What was accomplished when Jesus laid down his life, when he died? (Hebrews 2:14-18, Romans 3:21-26)</p> <p>What was accomplished when Jesus rose from the dead? (Hebrews 1:3, 4:14-16, 5:6-10 and I Corinthians 15:20-28)</p>

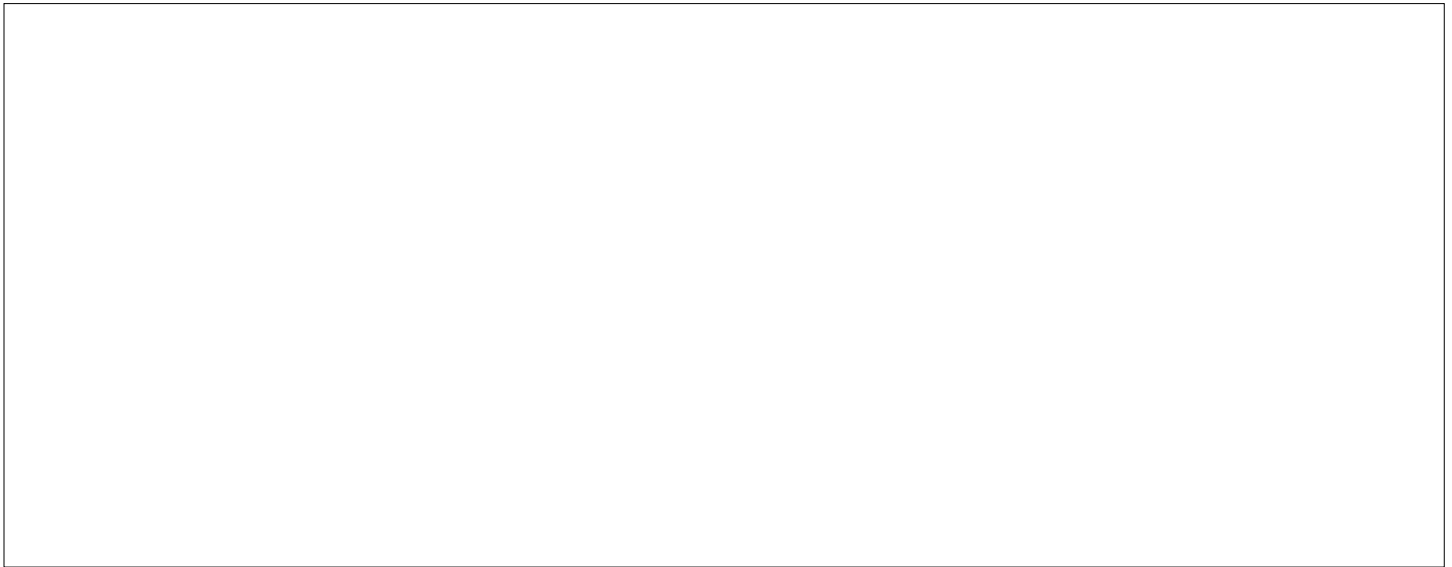
Day 114 **Read John 10:16-18**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:19</p>	<p>Jesus' statement that he had authority from the Father to lay down his life and then to take it up again caused some to be skeptical. Today, even after Jesus' death and resurrection, those who reject the resurrection and Christ's deity, refuse to believe who he is.</p>	<p>Not everyone will believe in Jesus and be saved. How do I feel about that? How does God feel about that? (Matthew 23:37-38, John 3:16-17, and II Peter 3:9)</p>
<p>John 10:20</p>	<p>One must either believe Jesus or discount his words as ravings.</p>	<p>Why doesn't God honor those who will accept Jesus as a great man or teacher, but not as his Son who died to give them eternal salvation?</p>
<p>John 10:21</p>	<p>The miracles and fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies indicate that Jesus is who he claimed to be. Jesus did very specific things to show everyone that he was the fulfillment of those prophecies. (Isaiah 29:18-19)</p>	<p>What specifically brought about belief in Jesus in my heart?</p>

Day 115 **Read John 10:19-21**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:22</p>	<p>Judas Maccabeus had rededicated the temple to God after Antiochus Epiphanes profaned it in 165 B.C. This event began to be commemorated annually and is now known as Hanukah.</p>	<p>Throughout history, God continues to show mercy and to extend grace to deliver those in great need. How have I seen him bring deliverance, revealing his greatness and lovingkindness?</p>
<p>John 10:23</p>	<p>Jesus was walking through an area of the temple in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>Why did Jesus spend time in the temple? (Luke 2:41-49, John 2:16-17)</p>
<p>John 10:24</p>	<p>Those who reject Jesus use the excuse that they just don't know for sure.</p>	<p>Did God give up on me? Should I give up on those who have rejected Jesus? (II Peter 3:9)</p>
<p>John 10:25</p>	<p>Jesus plainly and clearly claims to be the Christ, God's Chosen One. His words and deeds supported his claim.</p>	<p>How could I use this verse to help someone who says that Jesus never claimed to be God?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:26</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. We have to believe God exists and rewards those seeking him with finding him. Jesus was sent from God for those seeking him.</p>	<p>How could Hebrews 11:6 help someone toward faith in Christ?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 10:27</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Those who put their trust in Jesus seek to follow his words and live to please him.</p>	<p>If I claim to be a follower of Jesus, what is my “job” today and every day?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:27</p>	<p>From yesterday: Jesus said that those who know him listen to him and follow him. A new thought for today: Jesus knows those who have believed in him. If we have not worked with sheep, we think they all look alike, but a good shepherd who is actively caring for his sheep soon learns the characteristics and traits of each sheep. They do not all look the same, and they do not all act the same! The shepherd of a small personal flock knows each has a distinct personality and distinct features. Jesus knows us individually and personally, no matter how many of us he shepherds. (Luke 12:6-7)</p>	<p>How good am I at listening to and following Jesus?</p> <p>Why is it a good thing that a shepherd knows his individual sheep?</p> <p>In the same way, why is it a good thing that Jesus knows his followers, that he knows me personally?</p>
<p>John 10:28</p>	<p>We are forever secure in Jesus. No one can take away our eternal life.</p>	<p>Do I ever need to be afraid that Jesus has given up on me and let me go?</p>
<p>John 10:29</p>	<p>God has us securely in his hand and there is nothing more powerful than God.</p>	<p>If I belong to Jesus, can anyone or anything take me away from God?</p>

Day 117

Read John 10:27-31

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 10:30 <div data-bbox="100 281 428 491" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>	Jesus and the Father are one. They love us and care for us and promise to do so for all eternity. (John 17:20-23)	How do I feel about such love? <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 491" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>
John 10:31 <div data-bbox="100 541 428 819" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 132px;"></div>	Those who reject Jesus' deity will not allow themselves to believe and trust Jesus.	What small thing could I do today to help someone understand the depth of God's love for him or her? <div data-bbox="789 571 1524 819" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 118px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:32</p>	<p>Jesus' claim to be one with the Father had provoked the Jews to try to stone him. Jesus had done no wrong. He had made the lame walk, the blind see, the broken-hearted whole, set free those bound by Satan, and resurrected the dead. His works so obviously pointed to Who he was, but also simply to his goodness.</p>	<p>What right does anyone have to take offense at Jesus?</p>
<p>John 10:33</p>	<p>Jesus' deity is a stumbling block to those who will not accept that he is God's Son.</p>	<p>Do I understand the seriousness of rejecting Jesus' deity?</p>
<p>John 10:34</p>	<p>In Psalm 82:6, those who are in a position to defend the fatherless, poor, oppressed, weak, and needy are referred to as "gods" even though they will die.</p>	<p>Am I defending the fatherless, poor, oppressed, weak, and needy? How?</p>
<p>John 10:35</p>	<p>Those who received God's words and were expected to rule and judge rightly were referred to as "gods" in Psalm 82. What Scripture says is true and can't be changed.</p>	<p>Why does hearing from God put us all into a position of importance? How important is it that we do what God asks of us, what his word says to do?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:36</p>	<p>Jesus was not just anyone who heard what God said and should respond. Jesus was set apart by God as his very own. Jesus was sent into this world by God. He is more God's Son than any other person who might be esteemed as a ruler or recipient of God's words.</p>	<p>What deference should we give to Jesus? Why? How is Jesus unique? (Colossians 1:13-20)</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:37</p>	<p>Jesus said that we should not believe and follow people whose words and actions are opposed to God as revealed in the Scriptures. We know what is good and what God says about how we should live and treat one another. We could not follow Jesus unless it was clear that he was in agreement with God.</p>	<p>What attitudes and actions did Jesus have that reflected God's attitudes and actions?</p>
<p>John 10:38</p>	<p>Jesus did what God does. He also did many miracles so that people would see and believe and understand that he is God's Son, in unison with the Father in Heaven, and not opposed to God in any way.</p>	<p>Look back and find one miracle or healing done by Jesus in the Gospel of John that resulted in belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.</p> <p>When I think about what caused me to believe in Jesus, have I ever thought of it as a miracle?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:39</p>	<p>See John 7:30, Luke 4:30, and John 8:59. The time was not yet complete for Jesus to die, and he would die a particular kind of death by being lifted up on the cross for all to see. Jesus talks of being lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so that all who look to him will be saved. (John 3:14, 8:28, and 12:32-34)</p>	<p>How do we know it was God's intention for Jesus to die on the cross?</p> <p>How do we know that Jesus intended to give his life by dying the horrible, humiliating death he endured?</p>
<p>John 10:40</p>	<p>Those who had received John's baptism of repentance were seeking God and were open to Jesus' teachings and works.</p>	<p>Am I open to Jesus' ongoing teaching and work in my life?</p>
<p>John 10:41</p>	<p>Evidently John the Baptist did not do miracles. But those who had known John and had been baptized at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River, remembered that John said he was not worthy to even untie Jesus' sandals, that Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit, and that Jesus was the Son of God. (John 1:20-34) Jesus' miracles confirmed what John said.</p>	<p>Have I personally <i>experienced</i> the truth that Jesus is the Son of God? How?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 10:42</p>	<p>It was not time yet for Jesus to die. While Jesus was there, many people came to understand God's great love in sending Jesus. They saw God work in lives. They understood God's power to change lives. They saw the Father reflected in Jesus' life as he ministered to them.</p>	<p>What place/location/activity in my daily life contains many people who believe in Jesus?</p> <p>What place in my daily life contains people who need to see God change lives, who need the ministry of Jesus, who need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?</p> <p>Can God bring those people to salvation?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?