July 10 | Sunday

Read John 10:3-5



11 | Mon – Voices | Read John 10:1-3

Jesus uses an example common to His listeners: shepherds and sheep. Sheep spent their days grazing in open range but were sometimes taken to a holding pen at night for protection. When there were multiple flocks in the same pen, all that was needed in the morning was for each shepherd to call his sheep and they would gather around him. How well do you know your Shepherd's voice? What could you do today to grow in this area?

12 | Tue - Pause | Read Psalm 46:1-10

Ever wish you could hit the pause button on life like you can on the TV remote? Do days get so noisy that you "can't hear yourself think"? Problems demanding attention, people to deal with, jobs that need to be done. Some of the loudest voices are the ones in your head. Verses 1-9 recognize how chaotic life can be but then we are told to get quiet and know (recognize and understand) that God is...well, God. Does that give you perspective?

13 | Wed - Cattle vs. sheep | Read John 10:4-5

In the old West, cattle drives were how beef got to market. Cowboys drove the herd from behind to keep them moving. Sheep are another matter entirely. The shepherd has to be in front to lead them. Isn't it great to know that Jesus does not tell you where to go - He takes you there? He never asks you to do anything He has not already done Himself. His words are "Follow me" so when life gets hard, remember you are not doing this alone!

14 | Thu – Following Directions | Read Matthew 9:9; John 14:23-24

What does it mean to "follow Jesus"? He gave us very clear directions, as recorded in the Gospels. Then He said, "If you love me, you will obey me." That can seem daunting until you realize you only have to do one thing at a time. So read Jesus' words, think about what they mean, and then do what they say. Oh, and if you don't understand something, you have the Holy Spirit as your tutor. Just ask this amazing Person for help.

15 | Fri – List of Benefits (partial) | Read John 10:25-30

There are some definite challenges to following Jesus but also some wonderful benefits. First, you are known and loved, just as you are. Second, you were chosen by someone who will never leave you, for any reason, ever. Third, you have been given the promise of eternal life, the best life, forever. And finally, Jesus said *no-one* and *no-thing* can snatch you out of His hand. Is there any better security than this? You are a blessed person!

16 | Sat – No Blame | Read <u>John 10:14-18</u>

Some blamed the Romans for putting Jesus to death; others faulted the Jewish leaders for using the system to get rid of this "troublemaker." But before His death, Jesus set the record straight. No one TOOK His life. He laid it down by His own choice. What love and courage! Jesus did this for you; would you be willing to 'lay down your life' for others?

July 17 | Sun – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor What?

