



The Word @ Home

Easter 4

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

The Point

Jesus brings us life, now and forever.

Key Verse

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
– John 10:10

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Abundant Life

Jesus uses two metaphors related to shepherding. Verses 1-6 has four characters: the thief or bandit, the sheep, the shepherd, and the gatekeeper. The sheep are the people of God, Jesus is the shepherd, and false teachers (such as the Pharisees that Jesus is talking to) are the thieves and bandits. The false teachers do not care about the people of God, but only about themselves. Who the gatekeeper represents is unclear; their purpose in this metaphor may be to certify the genuineness of the shepherd. In verses 7-10, Jesus identifies himself not only as the shepherd, but as the gate. The gate and wall protect the sheep.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

The early church is known for their devotion, learning, fellowship, prayer, generosity, and equality. This idealized community had the goodwill of all the people and was growing quickly.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

The writer commends the people for enduring unjust suffering, likening it to Christ's own suffering with a quote from the prophet Isaiah. The reading connects to the Gospel lesson through the shepherding metaphor.

Seasons & Festivals

White or gold is used for the celebration of Easter Sunday. The gold color symbolizes that this day is the “queen of feasts,” unique in the entire church year. The rest of the Sundays following Easter also use white paraments, suggesting the joy of the resurrection.

Discussion Starters

- How is Jesus like a shepherd? How is Jesus like a gate?
- In what ways is your life filled with abundance?
- Take a moment to listen quietly. Do you hear Jesus' voice calling you?

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, we thank you for leading us, protecting us, and giving us abundant life. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read John 10:1-10 Jesus brings abundance.
Share one thing for which you are grateful.

Monday

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5 Care for the flock.
Who is the shepherd in this text? How can we care for and be a shepherd to others?

Tuesday

Read Ezekiel 34:23-31 God's promises to the people.
In what ways does God promise abundance?

Wednesday

Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 Woe to the shepherds.
Some shepherds do damage to the flocks, but this passage promises a coming King.
Who is this king?

Thursday

Read Genesis 12:1-3 Abram is called.
This passage begins to trace Jesus' lineage. Where do you see the faith story in your ancestry?

Friday

Read Exodus 3:1-12 Moses encounters the burning bush.
Remove your shoes as you hear this story. Where is holy ground for you?

Saturday

Read John 8:48-59 Jesus' claims anger the Pharisees.
Talk about why you think the religious leaders were so threatened by Jesus.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
You are blessed with abundance.