

March 27, 2011 John 10:11-18 “The Lord is my shepherd; that’s all I want”

Notes:

Song: I just wanna’ be a sheep – ask congregation to join in singing

Connection to music – brings us comfort and strength

Remembering music from Sunday school, VBS and camp – even now at my age

Catching someone singing a song from their past that reminds them of something

Same with images that we connect to, such as the image of Jesus as good shepherd

OT metaphor shepherd/shepherding – royal term for king, for leadership

Take a new look at what that means in Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”
or in Jer. 23 – “Whoa to the shepherds who destroy”

Jesus’ claim as the Good Shepherd

Prophetic – looking ahead to what God will do through Christ

Jesus’ claim w/the image of shepherd, connecting with God – I and the Father are one

What images/metaphors/names for God do you find comfort and strength? Why?

Story: “You keep us safe.” My kids say this to comfort themselves when they feel scared – at night when have a bad dream or walking along the road – “You keep us safe, Mommy.” Try to keep safe, despite the threats that are out there.

Jesus – 4 times says, “I lay down my life.” He keeps us safe in a new way – a new identity and a new reality about what it means for Jesus to be our good shepherd

Story: Little girl reading Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd; that’s all I want.”

Isn’t that the truth for us as well? “You keep me safe, Jesus.” It makes sense, even though she said the wording incorrectly, it’s really what we believe.

We belong to Jesus. It’s why I have no problem as someone in her late 30s to still sing a song from my childhood b/c it’s true: I just wanna’ be a sheep.

Take the words of that little girl with you into your week to remind you that you belong to Jesus, our good shepherd: “The Lord is my shepherd; that’s all I want.”

Helpful resources:

Narrative lectionary podcast

Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel, Craig R. Koester