

Youth Teaching Resources

April 17, 2016



Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind: Conversations with Jesus (April 3-May 8)

A Disciple We Can Like — John 20:19-31

One Shepherd to Another — John 21:1-19

Ask the Sheep — John 10:22-30

A Serious Summary — John 13:31-35

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Find links and videos related to this lesson.

Ask the Sheep

John 10:22-30

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

In this passage from John, Jesus uses the metaphor of sheep following a shepherd for protection and guidance. There is a promise of eternal life but not a promise that their current life will become easier. There are times when our teenagers want to be kept safe and feel protected and follow their roles as sheep rather well. There are other times, though, that our teenagers want to be the shepherds and not the sheep. They feel like they can guide and live their own lives without the help of a shepherd, and to some degree they are correct. Unlike Jesus' metaphor, our teenagers will become shepherds, and we want them to become shepherds, instead of remaining sheep. So as your teenagers seek to be more of a shepherd than a sheep, give them the freedom to do so, but still continue to shepherd over them as well. Allow them to shepherd, but also guide them as they make their mistakes. Bring them back into the flock to protect them and love them, instead of casting them out to the wolves.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip "I Am Iron Man" from *Iron Man*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why does Tony initially say he isn't Iron Man?
- 2) What proof do they have that he is Iron Man?
- 3) Why does Tony ultimately admit that he is Iron Man?
- 4) Why is it such an important plot point when a character's identity is revealed?
- 5) Why is it important for you to claim your true identity?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading John 10:22-30. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why is the “Feast of Dedication” or “Hanukkah” celebrated?
- 2) Why would the Jewish leaders want to know if Jesus was the messiah? Why would they want him to admit he was the messiah?
- 3) What are Jesus’ proofs that he is the messiah? Why does he not come out and say “yes”? How is Jesus’ answer more effective than a simple “yes” or “no”?
- 4) What method of discipleship does Jesus reveal in his metaphor about sheep and the shepherd?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in “Digging Deeper” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide). You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Where is Maccabees located in the Bible? Why is it included in some versions but not others?
- 2) When was the book of Daniel written? How does this influence how you read in the book?
- 3) What do you know about Hannukah? What is the symbolism of the celebration?

You may also want your group to discuss “The Hardest Question” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide): What if Jesus had said, “Yes, I am the Messiah”?

Transformation

Conclude your session by passing out several pieces of paper (preferably in the shape of fruit) and a writing utensil to each student. Instruct the students to write a way that they have witnessed God recently on one side of the paper and the person’s name or the situation on the other side of the paper. You may want to prompt your students to use the fruit of the spirit as their guide as they remember ways that they have seen God recently. Allow the students time to write the ways that they have seen God and then have the students place them at the front of the meeting space on a wall. Close this activity by having some of the students share how and where they have seen God recently.

Close with a prayer thanking God for revealing God’s self to us in so many different ways; ways that only we can comprehend.