

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

8.16.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

The Good Shepherd

Ezekiel 34: 1 - 16

God desires to have an intimate relationship with those, who by faith, hath believed upon his Son Christ Jesus. He knows each one individually, and he provides for our physical and spiritual needs. He promises never to leave us or forsake us. He offers rest to those who labour and are heavy laden. He invites his people to give to him all our worries and worldly fears, for he is continually looking after every detail of our lives with the promise of sustaining our every need, so that we might say with confidence that the Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

Deuteronomy 31: 8,....and the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee, neither forsake thee, fear not, neither be dismayed....

God stands by our side, removing the cares of worldly fear in our life. He provides grace and strength for the challenges that we have not yet encountered. Gods' commitment to us is absolute, he is near even when we may feel that he is far away. God promises to be with us, even unto the end of the age. The Lord God promises to bless faithfulness, but punish unfaithfulness, he promises favor for obedience and judgement for disobedience. As faithful servants who live a life of trust in God we will be rewarded, but those who produce works of the flesh will suffer loss of reward, but they themselves shall be saved, yet so as by fire. Therefore, let us trust in his word, so that we may never be afraid, or discouraged, being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Ezekiel 34: 1 – 6,....the word of the Lord came....saying....Son of Man, prophesy....and say unto them....woe be the shepherds....that do feed themselves....should not the shepherds feed the flock?....but ye feed not the flock....but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them....they were scattered, because there is no shepherd....my sheep wandered....and none did search or seek after him....

Sadly, the church is full of selfish leaders, exploiting the power and the authority of God for personal gain, not caring for the spiritual well-being of his people. Therefore, he holds us, as believers, accountable for how we treat those who are under our care. God promises to personally rescue, heal, and gather together his people into a unity that can only be fulfilled by Christ Jesus. Falling prey to temptation, and lustful desires will cause us to turn from the truth of Gods word and chase after worldly cravings, for we choose self-interest above all else. Therefore, if we become scattered, we will experience a hindered relationship with God, and find ourselves in need of the spiritual maturity of those who are in Christ, who will actively seek after our well-being.

Colossians 1: 28 – 29,....Christ in you, the hope of glory....whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus....whereunto I also labour, striving according to his workings, which worketh in me mightily....

Believers are to focus entirely upon Christ, guiding people away from sin, and instructing others in his divine trust, helping every believer to grow in faith and spiritual maturity. Jesus Christ is the central message of salvation, correcting wrong behavior by equipping one another with the truth of Gods word, steering each other away from the barrier of man's rules and rituals, out of spiritual danger and away from sin, so that we might understand how to live a holy life in Christ. As believers, we are to work in unity toward the day, when every person can stand secure and complete in our union with Christ.

Ezekiel 34: 7 – 10,....therefore....shepherds....hear the word of the Lord....because my flock became a prey....I am against the shepherds....I will require my flock at their hand....for I will deliver my flock....

Christ, who is the good shepherd, steps in when all else fails. He strips away temptation and worldly fear, and watches over his people, remaining the ultimate authority in our life. He will rescue his people from the sinful control of the world, challenging corrupt religious officials, who used people for power, rather than caring for their souls. Christ supreme sacrifice on the cross was not one of defeat but was a deliberate loving choice to save his people from their sin. He knows his followers, and we recognize his spiritual guidance. True spiritual leadership requires sacrifice, and a true shepherd will give his all to protect the flock, he lays down his life for his sheep. Therefore, we must examine our motives and put our trust in Christ Jesus who guarantees our eternal safety.

John 10: 11,....I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep....

Christ relationship with his followers is modeled after his relationship with God. It is a living, loving, eternal union. He knows us by name and he understands our life completely, and it is this same bond that provides us with a permanent spiritual safety and eternal life. True spiritual leadership and devotion is turning away from our own selfish desires for the well-being of others.

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16,....thus saith t he Lord....I will....search my sheep, and seek them out....I....will deliver them out of all places....I will bring them out from the people and gather them....and will bring them to their own....and feed them....in a good pasture....I will feed my flock....I will cause them to lie down....I will seek that which was lost....I will destroy the fat and the strong....I will feed them with judgment....

The lord does not always wait for our return; he actively searches for his people. He provides for our inner safety, he feeds our soul with his life-giving word, which helps us to stand firm in his spiritual truth and grace. This satisfies our emptiness and helps us to find freedom from worldly fear and conflict. God steps in to do what man cannot do, and he provides spiritual power to those who feel helpless and defeated. God promises to hold accountable those who oppress others, ensuring their actions do not go unpunished.

1 Corinthians 4: 1 – 2,....let a man so account of us, as the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God....moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful....

God does not measure our success by worldly standards, but by a consistent devotion to what he has entrusted unto us. God requires from us a steadfast relationship, loyalty, and our daily choice to obey the promises and commandments of his word. This means our ultimate focus must be on the one who evaluates the heart instead of chasing worldly validation for our works. A faithful servant focuses on doing that which is right and pleasing unto Christ who is the good shepherd, and leaving the results unto him.

Let us Pray

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>