

THE GOOD SHEPHERD
PART 2
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class, let's bow our heads and ask God for understanding as we study today. In part 2 of the "Good Shepherd", we will study what gives God's flock the wisdom to follow Him. We will also study about the beautiful promise from God of the return of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, to His scattered flock and how He will gently care for everyone.

Say - The Bible tells us that to become a follower of God, or to become one of His "Chosen people", we must first be "called of God". The Bible says it this way, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw (win over by spiritual influence) him: and I will raise him up (resurrect) at the last day", John 6:44.

Say - For those called of God, the decision whether to choose to follow Christ is up to the individual. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross (a preparedness even unto death), and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it (implying it is better not to begin than to begin and not finish, I Jn. 5:42)" Luke 14:27, 28.

Say - When the decision is reached, Christ gave us the steps to be a follower of Him. He said, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent (of sin): for the kingdom of heaven is at hand", Matt. 4:17. Christ through Peter added for us, "...repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (spirit)", Acts 2:38.

Say - The receiving of God's spirit given to us as His "firstfruits" pictured by the Spring Holy Day of Pentecost, is what gives us wisdom to follow God. The power of His spirit heals our spiritual sickness as He gives us eyes to see and ears to hear so we can understand the Truth of God for the very first time and this is what makes us "wise unto salvation", 2 Tim. 3:15, Jn. 16:13.

Say - The Bible says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them (He know us, if we keep His commandments), and they follow me: John 10:27-28. "And a stranger (false shepherd) will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers" (false doctrine), John 10:5. That is why we study, listen, and "Prove all things" so we recognize the teachings of our True Shepherd, Jesus

Christ. Then we will be solidly grounded and not fall away from the ONLY "Path which leads to Life".

Say - God tells us, "My son, if thou (you) wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee (you, store them in your mind); So that (you) incline thine ear (or listen sincerely) unto wisdom, and apply thine (your) heart to understanding (the right perception of truth); Yes, if thou (you) criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding (earnestly seeking the truth of God); If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hidden treasures (remember precious gems are found deep within the earth, study, be diligent, dig deep into His words of life); Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find (obtain) the knowledge of God".

Say - Continuing, "He layeth (is always ready to give) up sound wisdom for the righteous (those who love Him): he is a buckler (assistant) to them that walk uprightly. He... preserveth (defends) the way of his saints. Then shalt (you) understand righteousness (My laws), and judgment, and equity; yes, every good path (EVERY part of God's plan of Salvation taught to us through His Holy Days which reveal the "Path of Life"). (Do you understand God's plan of Salvation taught to us through His Holy Days, then you have been "called of God" and given His spirit and you are "one of the few", see lessons on "Holy days").

Say - When wisdom entereth into thine (your) heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; (His) discretion (purpose, and His purpose is to make us in His image, Gen. 1:26.) shall preserve thee, understanding (knowledge) shall keep thee (you). Why? (It is what will) ... "deliver thee (us) from the way of the evil man (the false shepherd), from the man that speaketh froward things (the shepherds of the confusion of Babylon); Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness (against the truth of God); Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and froward in their paths (because they lead to death not life)", Proverbs 2:1-15.

Say - In another place He tells us, "Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom (the wisdom of God); I have led thee in right paths (the paths of life). When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened (distressed); and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble (weak in the truth of God). "Hold fast" (be strong and courageous, without doubt) of instruction; let her not go: keep her;

for she is thy (eternal) life”, Proverbs 4:10-13. This is our promise from the Good Shepherd!

Say - Today our world is filled with lost sheep led astray by false shepherds, false prophets, and God will deal with them, Zec. 10:2Ez, 34:9, 10. Soon Christ will return for His lost sheep and He will care for their needs. The Bible explains it this way, "As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country".

Say - "I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their (sheep) fold be: there shall they lie in a good (sheep) fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was (spiritually) lost (unlike the false shepherds), and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken (hearted, lonely and poor), and will strengthen that which was sick (spiritually sick): but I will destroy the fat and the strong (the false shepherds who used the people to become wealthy); I will feed them with judgment!

Say - Christ continues, "Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey (booty); and I will judge between cattle and cattle (the rich and ungodly of the flock who joined in with the false shepherds in oppressing their poorer brethren and trampled on their rights)".

Say - "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, my servant David; he shall feed them (the ways of God), and he shall be their shepherd (King) (2 Sam. 7:12). And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. And I will make with them a covenant/agreement of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods (will dwell safely among all people and animals everywhere)".

Say - "And I will make them and the places round about my hill (Jerusalem) a blessing (to all); and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing (heaven on

earth, not up in heaven as the false shepherds teach). And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD (the promise of the covenant will be fulfilled, Lev. 26:4-13), when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them (the false shepherds). And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them...", Ez. 34:12-16, 22-31.

Say - "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat (nothing painful or burning). For the Lamb (Jesus Christ) which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters (eternal life): and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" Rev. 17:16-17.

Say - "Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him (God will be the authority in all things): behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Isaiah 40:10-11.

Say - And finally, not only will Christ gather His flock unto Him but He will expose the false shepherds and reveal their fate. The Bible says His people are "Scattered because there is no shepherd and they became meat for all the beasts (false leaders bearing false doctrine) of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them", Ez. 34:5, 6.

Say - "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves (and not the good of the people)! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill strengthened (the rich to get their possessions and property), neither have ye healed that which was sick (spiritually sick and blind), neither have ye bound up that which was broken (hearted, lonely, needy), neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them (in contrast to the Good Shepherd)", Ez. 34:2-4.

Say - Further punishment for false shepherds, "Woe to the idol (worthless) shepherd (pastor) that leaveth (apostatized with man-made doctrine) the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye (had failed to protect and watch at all times for the good of the sheep): his arm shall be clean dried up (no longer in authority over God's flock), and his right eye shall be utterly darkened" (totally useless), Zec. 11:17.

Say - The Bible says, " For the idols have spoken vanity (false gods consulted from divination), and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams (pretended to see the future and lied); they comfort in vain (their promises never happen): therefore they went their way as a flock (went astray), they were troubled, because there was no shepherd (which taught the truth of God)", Zec. 10:2.

Say - How thankful we can be for the soon returning Good Shepherd for His sheep and be comforted in His promise, "The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail", Isaiah 58:11 NIV. It is a promise we must "hold fast" and comfort one another with these words as we pray, "Thy Kingdom Come".

MEMORY VERSE

...I will seek out my sheep and gather them
...and feed them...and I will set up one shepherd
over them...my servant, David...and I will be their
God...and I will gently lead those that are young...
Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 40:11

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

...I will seek out my sheep...
and I will be their God...
Ezekiel 34

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

WHEN CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD RETURNS

RETURN CHRIST WILL AND TO THEIR OWN LAND HE'LL BRING
HIS PEOPLE AND THERE GENTLY CARE FOR HIS SHEEP;
AT THE FOOT HIS HOLY MOUNTAIN, THEY SHALL SAFELY DWELL
AND FIND COMFORT, BEAUTY AND PEACE.

THE LONELY, THE LOST, THE SICK AND THE POOR, STRENGTHED
AS IN THEIR YOUTH THEY SHALL BE;
AND BY THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT, THEY SHALL LIVE WITH HIM
ETERNALLY.

OVER THEM, KING DAVID, A GOOD SHEPHERD TO GOD'S FLOCK HE
WILL BE;
NO EVIL FROM WILD BEASTS OR THE WICKED SHALL EVER COME
NEAR THEM YOU SEE.

YES, SOON CHRIST WILL RETURN AND HEAVEN ON EARTH FOR HIS
SHEEP IT WILL BE;
FROM THE FRUIT OF THEIR FIELDS, FULL AND RUNNING OVER,
THEIR BASKETS WILL FOREVER BE!

THE YOKE OF CRUELTY AND SHAME FROM FALSE SHEPHERDS
BROKEN WILL BE BY THE POWER OF GOD'S HOLY NAME;
ALL TEARS SHALL END AND TO THE FOUNTAINS OF LIVING WATER
FOR GOD'S SHEEP WILL BE THEIR FAME!

LOVING KINDNESS AND MERCY WILL RULE THE LAND AS HE GATHERS
HIS SCATTERED SHEEP IN HIS ARMS ONCE AGAIN,
WITH TEARS WIPED AWAY FROM THE LORD OUR GOD, REAL LOVE
WILL FLOW AND FINALLY REMOVE ALL HEARTACHE AND PAIN.

By B. R. B.

...I WILL SEEK OUT MY SHEEP...
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD...
EZEKIEL 34

PLEASE FIND AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE TO COMPLEMENT THE
STORY OR MEMORY VERSE AND BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES
TO BE CUT OUT AND PLACED WITH THE PICTURE FOR THE SABBATH
SCHOOL NOTEBOOK.

MEMORY VERSE

...I will seek out my sheep and gather them
...and feed them...and I will set up one shepherd
over them...my servant, David...and I will be their
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