

1. Has anyone ever tried to sell you “a bill of goods”? What techniques did they use? How did you determine that what they were selling wasn’t what they claimed it to be?
2. Read John 10:1–6. How does Jesus use metaphors to describe the roles of shepherd and sheep? From what or whom does the shepherd protect the sheep? Why must thieves and robbers climb in by another way?
3. How does Jesus describe the relationship between sheep and shepherd? Why is this hard to understand for those that don’t have a relationship with the Good Shepherd?
4. Read John 10:7–10. What does the Shepherd provide for the sheep? How does what the Shepherd provides contrast with what the world promises to provide? Why is what the Shepherd provides better? What does the world really provide (v10b)?
5. Read John 10:11–16. What relationship does the hired hand have with the sheep? Why and how does this leave the sheep vulnerable? In contrast, what is the commitment of the Good Shepherd to the sheep? What does this tell us about the heart of the Shepherd? Who might the “hired hands” be in our day? How about the wolves?
6. Read John 10:17–21. How does Jesus fulfill the will of the Father? What does this tell us about the relationship between Father and Son?
7. What makes Jesus worth following? Why is it hard for some to choose him over the world? Make a commitment to follow Jesus today. If you’ve already committed to following him, ask him in prayer to help you hear him more clearly and savor what he offers more fully.