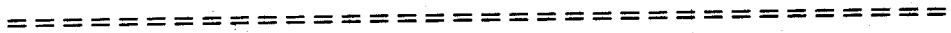


WEEK 5: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
DAY 1: YOU WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS

John 8:12-20. John 1:4-9.

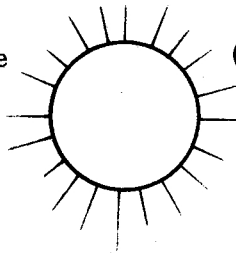
1. Jesus said that He was the truth. What did He say the truth would do for those who know it? Answer by saying John 8:31-32.

Because the leaders of the Jews did not believe the truth, they were the children of whom?



2. Look in your Bible to see if you said the verse right. Jesus said that the leaders of the Jews were children of the devil. They refused to believe the truth. Jesus came so people could see things clearly. He said that He is the truth. He also said that He is the light. Today we will learn two promises that Jesus gave to the person who follows Him.

(1) He will have the light of life

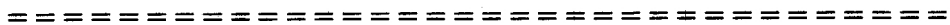


(2) He will not walk in darkness.

We will also learn:

Because light overcomes darkness, we do not have to fear demons

In your Bible read John 8:12 to 20. Do you think more evil is done in darkness or in light?

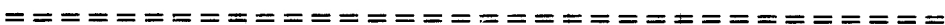


3. Much evil is done in darkness. There are two kinds of light. One is natural light. The light from the sun is natural light. You have watched the sun early in the morning as it begins to shine on the land. The darkness cannot stay when the sun is shining. Jesus says He is the light of the world. But He is not the sun. He is the one who made the sun! He is talking about a different kind of light. It is spiritual light.

John 8:12:

Jesus spoke to the pharisees again. "I am the light of the world," he said. "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

From this verse, who will have the light of life? _____



4. It is whoever follows Jesus. But how can we follow Him? We must believe in Him. We must listen to what He says. We must do what He tells us. Then we have understanding. This is spiritual light. The Bible says much about light. In the first chapter of Genesis, God said, "Let there be light." This was natural light. Near the end of the Bible we are still reading about light.

John 1:5:

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

If a man follows Jesus what will he have? _____

=====

5. He will have light. It is the light of life. The light of the sun gives physical life, but it does not give eternal life. When a person gets old, the sun cannot keep his body from dying. The light from God does not just give physical life. It gives spiritual life. This means that we live well now on earth and we live forever in heaven.

Who is the light of the world? _____

What does light bring? _____

=====

6. The light of the world is Jesus. Light brings life. The light of life means joy, understanding, and growth. It means knowing what life is for and knowing what to do. Those who do not have Christ do not have these things. See the verse again.

John 8:12:

"I am the light of the world," he said. "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

What is the first promise Jesus made to the person who follows Him?

(1) _____

(2) He will not walk
in darkness.

=====

7. The first promise is: He will have the light of life. Darkness cannot stay where there is light. This is true with natural light. It is true also with spiritual light. People who follow Satan walk in darkness. Spiritual darkness brings death. Jesus came to lead people out of darkness. When you receive God's light you receive life. The light of the world is Jesus.

If a person follows Jesus, what will he not walk in? _____

=====

8. He will not walk in darkness. Much evil is done at night, in the darkness. Our Lord will not have fellowship with sin. Sin is disobeying Jesus. It is spiritual darkness. Some people choose to live in darkness. They live with lying, selfishness, hatred and all that goes with these things.

Have you sometimes walked in this kind of darkness? _____

=====

9. We all know what sin is like. But we do not have to stay in darkness. When we receive the light of life we leave our old ways of sin. We are no longer condemned because now our hearts are clean. Now we want to walk in the light.

John 8:12:

"I am the light of the world," he said. "Whoever follows will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

From this verse, what must we do so that we do not walk in darkness? _____

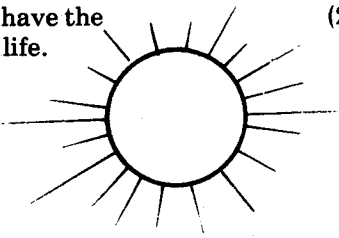
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10. We must follow Jesus. A farmer once planted some maize in a big forest. The trees were tall and gave much shade. The rains fell. The sun shone. But when time for harvest came, there was no maize. Why did no maize grow in the forest? It was because the grain never received any sunlight. The maize could not have life because it did not have light.

What is the second thing Jesus promised to whoever follows Him?

(1) He will have the light of life.

(2) _____



=====

11. The second thing is: He will never walk in darkness. There is plenty of darkness around us. There is sin everywhere. The power of Satan is strong. But we do not have to be afraid of the darkness. Perhaps you remember that John wrote about light in the very first chapter of his book.

Take your Bible now and read John 1:4 to 9. Read verse 5 again. What has the darkness never been able to do? _____

=====

12. The darkness has never been able to put out the light. When the sun goes down darkness covers the land. In the city you turn on electric lights. In the country you light a lamp. Has the night ever been so dark that it put out your light? No, the lamp seems to burn brighter when the night is darker.

The Bible speaks of demons or evil spirits which bring much harm to people. These spirits come from Satan, the enemy of God. Satan and all evil spirits bring spiritual darkness. They hate the light because they are evil.

In the verses which we read earlier, what does Jesus say He is? _____

=====

13. He is the light of the world. The darkness of Satan cannot overcome this light. Jesus Christ shines brightly in the darkness of the world. The light came in order to overcome the darkness. Other books in the Bible talk about this.

Colossians 2:15:

And on that cross Christ freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; he made a public spectacle (or show) of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession.

1 John 3:8:

... The Son of God appeared for this very reason, to destroy what the Devil had done.

Who has overcome the darkness of Satan? _____

=====

14. Jesus has overcome Satan. Think about these questions for a moment. Does Jesus want us to be afraid of Satan's servants. Does He want us to live in fear of evil spirits? Does He want His people always to talk about the powers of darkness? Some people talk much about Satan and little about Jesus. Soon they forget that Jesus has overcome the darkness. They are afraid of evil spirits. Instead see what Jesus wants.

John 12:36:

Believe in the light, then, while you have it, so that you will be the people of the light.

What do we become when we believe in the light? _____

=====

15. We become people of the light. We belong to Jesus. If we belong to Christ, Satan cannot have power over us.

A certain shop owner received Jesus as His saviour. He started coming to church. But he did not know much of the Bible yet. Another young Christian visited his shop. The two men began talking about the power of evil spirits. The shop keeper told of people who became sick and even died from witch craft. Many days later the young Christian was still thinking about the powers of darkness. He was living in fear. He did not know that Jesus is the light, and light overcomes darkness.

Can Satan have power over you if you put your faith in Jesus? _____
Explain your answer . _____

=====

16. Be ready to share your answer in class. Late one night a farmer's cows got out of their pen. The farmer went looking for them. But he did not take a light. It was very dark and the farmer stepped on a snake. The snake bit him. The farmer needed a light.

Jesus tells us to walk in the light. This means to act on the truth which we have from Him. We must do this so darkness will not overtake us. It is foolish to say there are no evil spirits. The Bible speaks of them. But as believers we must live by the light of Jesus Christ.

Because light overcomes darkness, what does this mean for those of us who fear demons?

=====

17. It means we no longer need to fear. Sometimes Satan tempts us to talk and think of his power. He wants us to be afraid of him. He wants to take God's peace from us.

What two things does Jesus promise to the one who follows Him? Say them to yourself.

=====

18. He will have the light of life, and will never walk in darkness. Let us say that a woman in your church is much afraid of evil spirits. She always talks of how powerful demons are. When she first received Christ, she was full of peace and joy. But now she lives in fear of spiritual darkness.

From today's lesson explain how you would help this woman with her problem.

=====

19. Be ready to talk about this in class.

Jesus said He is the light of the world. What two things does He promise to the one who follows Him?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Because light overcomes darkness, what does this mean for those of us who fear demons?

WEEK 5: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
DAY 2: THE BLIND MAN RECEIVED LIGHT
John 9:1-29.

1. Yesterday we saw that we do not have to be overcome by darkness.

Jesus said He is the light of the world. What two things does He promise to the one who follows Him?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Because light overcomes darkness, what does this mean for those of us who fear demons?

=====

2. The one who follows Jesus will have the light of life. He will not walk in darkness. We do not need to fear demons. The Bible speaks of two kinds of light. Today we will see a man in the book of John who received both kinds. This is what we will learn:

(1) Jesus gave the blind man physical light and spiritual light.

(2) Spiritual light is more important because it brings eternal life..

Take your Bible now and read John 9:1 to 12. Read verse 5 again. What did Jesus say of Himself in this verse?

=====

3. He said: I am the light of the world. Jesus and the disciples were talking about a blind man. He had never seen the light of the sun. He had never seen the things around him. But the man not only needed physical light. He also needed spiritual light. He did not know Jesus.

John 9:1:

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind.

How long had this man been blind? _____

=====

4. He had been blind all his life. Think how it would be never to see anything. This man had never seen his mother's face or his father's house. Jesus' disciples wanted to blame the man or his parents for this. They thought someone's sin caused him to be blind. But the disciples were wrong. When a person is sick this does not always mean that he is sinful.

John 9:3:

Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him.

The man was born without spiritual light. What other kind of light did he need?

=====

5. He needed physical light. He needed to be able to see with his eyes.

What did Jesus do for him? _____

=====

6. Jesus healed him. He gave him physical light. But he also needed something else. It is sad for a person to be physically blind. But it is far worse to be blind spiritually. Spiritual blindness is the same as spiritual darkness. Satan brings spiritual blindness. He is called the god of this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4:

They do not believe, because their minds have been kept in the dark by the evil god of this world. He keeps them from seeing the light shining on them, the light that comes from the Good News about the glory of Christ.

Can a person be physically blind and still be a Christian? _____

=====

7. Yes, there are many physically blind people who love Jesus. To see the things around him, the man needed physical light. But he needed spiritual light in order to see Jesus as the Son of God. This was the only way he could receive eternal life. Without seeing who Jesus was, he would die and be lost.

Who makes people blind spiritually? _____

=====

8. We read that Satan blinds people. He does not want them to see that Christ can save them. Spiritual blindness is much worse than physical blindness because it brings eternal death.

What did the disciples think caused the man to be blind? _____

=====

9. The disciples thought sin had brought blindness to the man. Spiritual blindness deceives us. Some people think they are good because they do certain things. This is what the Pharisees thought. They became proud of themselves. They were blind and did not know it!

What is the first kind of light which Jesus brought to the blind man?

- (1) _____
- (2) Spiritual light

=====

10. Jesus gave him physical light. Remember how the blind man received his sight. He listened to Jesus and obeyed His word. Jesus put mud on the man's eyes. Then he told the man to go and wash it off. This may have seemed foolish. But the blind man obeyed and was healed.

It is the same with spiritual light. We must obey Jesus' words about believing. This seems too easy. But it is what we must do.

What kind of light did the man receive when He understood who Jesus was?__

=====

11. He received spiritual light. But He first received physical light. Jesus healed his eyes. As soon as he was healed, he began telling other people about Jesus. When we receive spiritual light, we should also be quick to tell others.

In your Bible read John 9:13 to 17. Did the man understand clearly who Jesus was?

=====

12. He did not understand clearly. He thought Jesus was a prophet. But the Pharisees did not even think Jesus was a good man. They did not believe the man had been blind. They thought Jesus was a deceiver. They asked the parents of the man whether he has been blind. Then they asked the man again how he was made to see.

John 9:27:

"I have already told you," he answered, "and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Maybe you, too would like to be his disciples.

Which is more important physical light or spiritual light?_____

=====

13. Spiritual light is more important. This is because spiritual light leads to eternal life. The Pharisees did not want this kind of light. They were angry when the man asked if they wanted to believe. They put him out of the synagogue, which was their church. But Jesus found the man and talked with him. It was then that the man believed in Jesus as his Saviour.

Read what was said in John 9:35 to 38. What two kinds of light did Jesus bring to the blind man?

(1) _____

(2) _____

=====

14. Jesus brought him physical light and spiritual light. See how quickly the man received the spiritual light Jesus gave him.

John 9:37-38:

Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now." I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus.

Which kind of light is more important and why? _____

=====

15. Spiritual light is more important because it brings eternal life.

Mr. Wamae is a blind man who lives in a certain city. He always carries a stick when he walks. When people see him they help him cross the street. His friends helped him to repair his house. One friend found a job for him where he learned to carve things from wood and sell them.

Mr. Omolo lives in the same city. He has a big store where he earns much money. Mr. Omolo has good eyes, but he is spiritually blind. He never reads the Bible, or prays, or goes to church. No one thinks of Mr. Omolo as being blind. They look at his big store and think he is doing well.

If Jesus came to talk with Mr. Omolo, what do you think He would say to him from today's lesson?

=====

16. Be ready to share your answer in class.

What kinds of light did Jesus bring to the blind man?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Which of the two kinds of light is more important and why? _____

WEEK 5: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
DAY 3: SOME PEOPLE REMAINED BLIND
John 3:18-21. John 9:29-41.

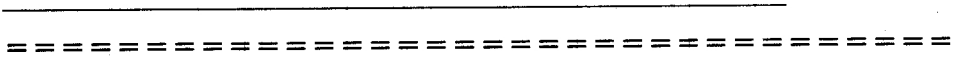
1. We are learning that Jesus had much to say about light.

What two kinds of light did Jesus bring to the blind man?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Which of the two kinds of light is more important and why? _____

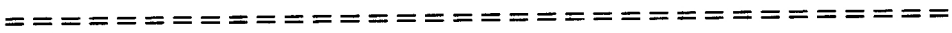


2. The two kinds of light Jesus brought were physical light and spiritual light. Spiritual light is more important because it brings eternal life.

We have seen that much evil is done in the darkness of night. People who do evil fear the light. They do not want their deeds to be known. Today our lesson is about people refusing light.

- (1) When people like the Pharisees talk about God but do not walk in the light, they become spiritually blind.
- (2) People love darkness rather than light because their actions are sinful.

Yesterday we saw that the Pharisees put the man out of the synagogue. Let us go on with what happened after that. In your Bible read John 9:29 to 41. Were the Pharisees walking in the light which God gave them through Jesus? _____

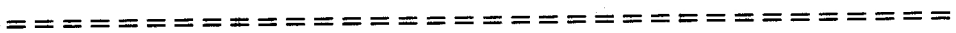


3. The Pharisees were not using the light which God gave them. The man who was healed saw that Jesus was a good man. But the Pharisees could not see this. They refused to believe.

John 9:34:

They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin--and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him(or put him out) from the synagogue.

Who talked about God but did not walk in the light which He gave? _____



4. The Pharisees did not walk in the light. Walking in the light means accepting what God shows us. It means believing what He says. It means doing what He tells us to do. The man who was healed of his blindness did all these things. When Jesus told him that He was the Son of God, the man said, "I believe, Lord."

John 9:39:

John said, "I came to this world to judge, so that the blind should see and those who see should become blind."

Because the Pharisees thought they could see, what did they become? _____

=====

5. They became blind. They saw some things, but they did not act on what they saw. Jesus said that those who see can become blind. Some of the Pharisees heard Jesus say this. They asked whether He meant they were blind.

John 9:41:

Jesus answered, "If you were blind, then you would not be guilty, but since you claim that you can see, this means that you are still guilty."

Were the Pharisees physically blind, or spiritually blind? _____

=====

6. They were spiritually blind. Jesus gave them a good answer. He told them that if they confessed their blindness they could see. But they kept saying that they could see. The Pharisees were spiritually blind and refused to agree to it. They were too proud to say that they were blind.

From John 9, what happens to the sight of people like the Pharisees who talk about God but do not walk in the light? _____

=====

7. They become spiritually blind. It seems strange that people refuse to walk in the light. Why do people not want to see the truth? Why do people not want it to shine on their lives? It is because they have sin in their lives. It is because their actions are sinful. Jesus talked about this earlier to Nicodemus. Let us go back and see what He said.

Take your Bible and read John 3:16 to 21. Read verse 19 again. What do people love rather than light? _____

=====

8. People love darkness. The light of the world uncovers evil and shows sinful deeds. This is why people who are like the Pharisees hate the light.

John 3:20:

Anyone who does evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because he does not want his evil deeds to be shown up.

Why do some people around us today hate the light which Jesus gives? _____

=====

9. It is because they do not want their sins to be shown. When they hear what Jesus says, they see what they are doing wrong. Other people also see their sinful actions. Everyone who does evil hates the light.

John 3:21:

But whoever does what is true comes to the light in order that the light may show that what he did was in obedience to God.

From this verse, who comes to the light? _____

=====

10. Those who do what is true enjoy the light. They come to it. They listen to Jesus. They receive what He says. They do what He tells them. They walk in the light. But this is not true of everyone. Most people love darkness rather than light.

What is sinful about them that makes them love darkness? _____

=====

11. Their actions are sinful. The light causes their sinful actions to be seen. This makes them ashamed. They try to hide their actions from themselves and others. Soon they are able to see what is true and what is not true. But the light not only uncovers sinful actions. It also shows the good actions of those who do what is true. Jesus talked about light again near the end of His life.

John 12:46:

I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

Why do people love darkness rather than light? _____

=====

12. It is because their actions are sinful. When we do what is true we enjoy coming to the light. The Pharisees are examples of people who hate the light. They did not do what is true. Their actions were sinful.

From John 9, what happens to people like the Pharisees who talk about God but do not walk in the light?

=====

13. They become spiritually blind. Such people love darkness rather than light.

Mrs. Ambolo bought some oranges at the market. The woman who sold the oranges made a mistake. She gave Mrs. Ambolo too much money in change. Mrs. Ambolo saw the mistake but did not say anything. She was a Christian and tried to think God had blessed her with more money. But she did not feel happy. She knew she had cheated the woman at the market. Finally she let Jesus shine His light on her sin. She confessed her sin to Him. Then she returned the money which was not hers. She told the woman all that had happened.

Why do many people love darkness rather than light?

=====

14. It is because their actions are sinful. But when they let the light shine their sin, their actions change. Think about your life. Are there some things you want to hide? Remember that nothing is hidden from the light of God. When our actions are good, His light does not make us ashamed, but joyful. Perhaps there is something that needs to be changed in your life. Pray about that now.

Your people need to hear what you learned in this lesson. Prepare a sermon to preach about this. On another paper write the big things you will say. Preach the sermon if you can. Bring your paper to class for the leader to see.

=====

15. From John 9, what happens to people like the Pharisees who talk about God but do not walk in the light?

Why do people love darkness rather than light?

7. We belong to God. We also belong to His Son, Jesus. Jesus died to give us life. But Satan only wants to bring us death.

Perhaps you know some stories from the past about African tribes. Some tribes stole cattle from others. This was their way of living. First they stole the cattle. They ran away with them. Then they killed them. So it is with Satan. He does not want to give us life. He only wants to bring us eternal death.

From John 10:10, what do Satan and his thieves come to do to us, the sheep?

- (1) Steal (2) _____ (3) Destroy

=====

8. They come to kill. The Good Shepherd gives life to His sheep. But Satan wants to kill you. There are so many ways by which Satan can spoil your life. He brings drunkenness, fighting, envy, lust, smoking, adultery, hatred, tribalism and many other harmful things. These things spoil our bodies. In the end they kill us.

But there is something more. Satan also wants to destroy us forever. He wants to bring us to eternal death. In eternal death we are separated from God forever.

In the story about the Good Shepherd, what is Satan called when he comes to steal, kill, and destroy?

=====

9. He is called the thief. The thief is Satan or anyone he sends to steal us away from Christ. Jesus said that His sheep follow Him. He also says that if we fight Satan, he will run from us. We do not want to be destroyed.

John 10:5:

They will not follow someone else; instead, they will run away from such a person, because they do not know his voice.

James 4:7:

... Resist the Devil, and he will run away from you.

What is the third thing Satan and his helpers want to do to us, the sheep?

- (1) Steal (2) Kill (3) _____

=====

10. They want to destroy us. Some thieves do not really want the sheep. They just want to get rid of them. They do this because they hate the shepherd. But the shepherd loves his sheep. Our Good Shepherd loves us. He has gone far to give His life for us. Because of this, we have life too.

John 10:2:

The man who goes in through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

Who is a good Shepherd? _____

=====

11. This is Jesus. In the time of Jesus, the sheep of many people were sometimes kept in one big pen. One man kept the gate. When a shepherd came for his sheep, the keeper opened the gate. The shepherd called and his own sheep came to him. In our country, cows, sheep, and goats are given names. When the shepherd calls the name, the animal looks up. Our shepherd knows our names. When He calls us we should look up to Him.

John 10:3:

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out.

Where does a shepherd want to take his sheep? _____

=====

12. He wants to take them to food and water. He wants them to have a good life. Jesus wants the same for His sheep. He wants them to have life in all its fullness. This does not mean just food and clothes and good health. It means peace and joy and a reason for living.

John 10:4:

When he has brought them out, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice.

Think about life in all its fullness. Besides food, clothes, good health, peace, joy and a reason for living, what does life in all its fullness mean to you?

=====

13. Be ready to talk about this in class. The shepherd wants good life for His sheep. He wants them to be strong and happy. In order to do this they must follow Him.

John 10:4:

When he has brought them out, He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they know his voice.

From what you have learned in this course, how can we follow Jesus and have life in all its fullness?

=====

14. We must first believe Him. Then we must do what He says. When Jesus told the story of the sheep, the people did not understand at first. So He explained to them. He said that He Himself was the good shepherd and also the gate.

John 10:9:

I am the gate. Whoever comes in by me will be saved; he will come in and go out and find pasture.

Who has come so that His sheep may have life in all its fullness? _____

=====

15. Jesus has done this. Tomorrow we will see that He gave His life for His sheep. Because of this He is the gate to life. If we believe in Him we are His sheep.

John 10:10:

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life--life in all its fullness.

What has the good shepherd come that we may have? _____

=====

16. We can have life in all its fullness. There was a young man in one of the mission schools. We will call him Juma, although that was not his real name. Juma received Christ and became one of Christ's sheep. But then he was tempted to spend all his time earning money and playing with his friends. He did not have time to read the Bible and listen to what God was saying. He got married and started a family. He had a good job but he spent more money than he earned. He was in so much debt that he became discouraged. One day he got a gun. He first shot his wife and then he shot himself. His life was ended.

From John 10:10:, what do Satan and his thieves come to do to us, the sheep?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

=====

17. They come to steal, kill, and destroy. We must be careful to listen to the voice of Jesus. We must know what He wants us to do.

What has the good shepherd come that we may have? _____

=====

18. We may have life in all its fullness. But we must not be deceived. We must listen carefully to the right voice.

John 10:8:

All others who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

There were many before Jesus came who said they were good leaders. But they were false shepherds. They were thieves. There are still some people like this around us today.

How do you think we can know whether leaders are shepherds or thieves? _____

=====

19. Be ready to share your answer in class.

From John 10:10, what do Satan and his thieves come to do to us, the sheep?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

What has the good shepherd come that we may have? _____

WEEK 5: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
DAY 5: I AM WILLING TO DIE FOR THE SHEEP
John 11:11-28.

1. From John 10:10, what do Satan and his thieves come to do to us, the sheep?

- (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

What has the good shepherd come that we may have? _____

=====

2. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But the good shepherd wants to give life in all its fullness. Today we will learn what the shepherd had to do so the sheep could have this life.

- (1) To show how He cares for His own, Jesus said in John 10:11. I am the shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep.
- (2) Unfaithful pastors today are like the man who runs from the sheep when the enemy comes.



Take your Bible now and read John 10:11 to 21. Read verses 14 and 15 again. What did Jesus say He was willing to do for the sheep? _____

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3. He was willing to die. That was how much He cared for them.

John 10:17:

The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again.

Who was willing to die for the sheep? _____

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4. The good shepherd was willing to do this. This good shepherd is Jesus. He was willing to do this by His own choice. It was not because someone forced Him to do it.

John 10:18:

No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do.

For whom was the good shepherd willing to die? _____

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5. He was willing to die for the sheep. These are His own sheep. They are the ones who know His voice. Later the people asked Jesus again whether He was the Messiah. He said they did not know Him because they were not His sheep.

John 10:27:

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

As they listen, how do the sheep show that they know the voice of the good shepherd?

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6. They follow Him. The shepherd gives them something wonderful.

John 10:28:

I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me.

Because the shepherd is willing to die, what does He give the sheep? _____

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7. He gives them eternal life. Now Jesus is going beyond the story of earthly sheep. Earthly sheep live a short life. But the Lord's sheep can live forever. Jesus said that no one can take them from His hands. This is important to us as Christians. If we are in the hands of Jesus, even the devil cannot take us away. In the hands of Jesus, there is safety.

John 10:11:

I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep.

Take time to memorise this verse now. When you can say it well, hide the words. Write the verse here. John 10:11:

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8. As leaders of God's people we need to follow Christ's example. Christ gave His life for the sheep. The pastor of a church should be willing to do the same for his people. He should live to serve in every way. He should not be working for the church just to get money. He must be willing to protect the people of the church. He does this by praying for them, visiting, and giving them a good example. Some day he may even be killed for leading His people to follow Christ.

This is happening to some pastors in the world today. Janani Luwum was a faithful leader of the church in Uganda. When the government began to persecute the church, he stood for what was right. On February 16, 1977, he was called for a meeting with the President of Uganda. He was never seen again by his family and friends. Later they heard that he had been killed. He was praying aloud for his enemies as he died.

In giving his life for his people, whose example was this pastor following? _____

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9. He was following Jesus' example. Jesus said that leaders of the people should be faithful. Then He talked about some who were not faithful. They are like hired men who watch the sheep.

John 10:12:

When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them.

What does the unfaithful shepherd do when trouble comes to the church? _____

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10. He runs away. He does not stay with the sheep. The unfaithful pastor is only interested in himself. He refuses to suffer for the sheep. Jesus gave His life for the sheep. He says that we should follow His example.

A Christian man in Kenya said he was called by God to pastor a church. He stayed for a little while. Then he saw that he was not getting much money from the church. He saw that the work was hard. The people just followed him and did not try to help. When the enemies of the church began to work, he went away. He left the church without a pastor.

Was this pastor faithful, or unfaithful? _____

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11. He was unfaithful. The faithful pastor must not work only for what he gets. He must work in the church because he loves the people. He must work because he Loves God. He must not be like a hired man in the church who works only for pay.

John 10:13:

The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep.

Unfaithful pastors are like whom in the story of the good shepherd? _____

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12. They are like the hired man. It is right for pastors to receive help from their people. But if that is the only reason they are working for the church, they are very wrong. They are unfaithful pastors. The church in our land cannot be strong with unfaithful pastors. We leaders should not work for money. We should work because God has given us precious sheep to care for.

Who today are like the hired man who runs away from the sheep when the enemy comes? _____

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13. Unfaithful pastors are like the hired man. But Jesus was different. He laid down His own life. He did this of His own free will. No one paid Him for doing it. He laid down His life because He loved us. He paid the price for our sin. He died so that we could live.

What did Jesus say about Himself to show how He cares for those who follow Him? Answer by writing John 10:11: _____

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14. Jesus said: I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. Mr. Chacha was a faithful shepherd in Tanzania. He did not get much pay for his work, but he worked hard. He was always there to lead services. He encouraged his people. He visited them in their homes. He always came to help when they had sickness or trouble. Sometimes unbelievers fought against the church. They said evil things about Mr. Chacha but he prayed for them. God gave him strength to be a faithful pastor.

Who today are like the hired man who runs away from the sheep when the enemy comes? _____

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15. Unfaithful pastors are like the hired man who runs away. Instead they should do as Peter wrote to the pastors of his time.

1 Peter 5:2-4:

I appeal to you to be shepherds of the flock that God gave you and to take care of it willingly, as God wants you to, and not unwillingly. Do your work, not for mere pay, but from a real desire to serve. Do not try to rule over those who have been put in your care, but be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the glorious crown which will never lose its brightness.

What will happen to the pastors who are faithful? _____

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16. They will receive a glorious crown.

What did Jesus say about Himself to show how He cares for those who follow Him? Answer by writing John 10:11: _____

Who today are like the hired man who runs away from the sheep when the enemy comes? _____