

WEEK 1: JESUS AS THE DOOR, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND THE LAMB OF GOD

Bible Passages:

- **John 10:1–18** – *Jesus as the Door and the Good Shepherd*
 - **John 1:29–34** – *Jesus as the Lamb of God*
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Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

1. Explain what it means that Jesus is the **Door**.
 2. Describe how Jesus is the **Good Shepherd**.
 3. Understand the title “**Lamb of God**” and its spiritual significance.
 4. Discuss how these titles reflect the nature and mission of Jesus Christ.
 5. Apply these teachings to personal Christian life.
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A. JESUS AS THE DOOR

John 10:7–9

“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Explanation:

In the biblical context, shepherds often kept sheep in fenced enclosures or pens. At night, the shepherd would lie across the entrance, literally becoming the “door” to the sheepfold. No sheep could leave, and no predator could enter without going through him.

- Jesus uses this imagery to describe Himself as the **only legitimate entrance into salvation and God’s kingdom**.
- Anyone trying to reach God without going through Jesus is a thief and robber.
- The **door represents access to safety, salvation, and provision**.

Key Points:

- Jesus is the **only true way** to eternal life (cf. John 14:6).

- Through Him, believers receive **spiritual nourishment** (pasture).
 - He offers **security, protection**, and **peace**.
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B. JESUS AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:11–18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Explanation:

The shepherd’s role in biblical times was vital: leading sheep to pasture, protecting them from wild animals, rescuing strays, and ensuring none were lost. Jesus adopts this role and compares Himself to a shepherd who truly loves and sacrifices for His flock.

- Unlike hired workers who run away when danger comes, Jesus faces danger **head-on**, even to the point of **dying for His sheep**.
- He **knows each sheep by name**—indicating a **personal, loving relationship** with every believer.
- He is **devoted, selfless, and protective**.

Characteristics of the Good Shepherd:

- **Self-Sacrifice:** Lays down His life (i.e., His death on the cross).
- **Relationship:** Knows His sheep and is known by them.
- **Protection:** Guards from spiritual harm.
- **Leadership:** Guides His followers in righteousness.

Lesson for Christians:

- Listen for and **obey Jesus’ voice**.
 - Trust in His leadership and care.
 - Follow His example of **selfless love and service** to others.
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C. JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29–34

“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” – John 1:29

Explanation:

John the Baptist called Jesus the “Lamb of God,” drawing from the **Old Testament tradition of animal sacrifice**. In Jewish custom:

- Lambs were used as **atonement offerings**—especially during Passover (Exodus 12).
- The lamb had to be **without blemish** and was sacrificed for the sins of the people.

Jesus is called the **Lamb of God** because:

- He is **sinless** and **pure**.
- He was **sacrificed once for all**, replacing all animal sacrifices.
- His **blood cleanses** all who believe in Him.

Significance:

- Jesus’ death is a **substitute** for humanity’s punishment.
- His role as the Lamb **fulfills prophecy** (Isaiah 53).
- The **foundation of salvation** is His atoning death.

Summary Table

Title of Jesus	Bible Reference	Meaning & Significance
The Door	John 10:7–9	Jesus is the only way to salvation, protection, and peace.
The Good Shepherd	John 10:11–18	Jesus leads, knows, protects, and lays down His life for His people.
The Lamb of God	John 1:29–34	Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who takes away sin.