



THEASCENSION.ORG

## Leader Study Guide

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Week of Easter 4: May 7-May 13; John 10.1-18

### Intro Question

Was there a time when you felt like you were responsible for more than you could handle? What was it and why did it feel like such a great responsibility

### Collect

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Text (NRSV)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this

figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

## Lectio Divina:

Taken from “ACCEPTING THE EMBRACE of GOD: THE ANCIENT ART of LECTIO DIVINA”<sup>1</sup>

Fr. Luke Dysinger, OSB

### Lectio Divina Shared in Community

#### (A) Listening for the Gentle Touch of Christ the Word

(The Literal Sense)

1. One person reads aloud (twice) the passage of scripture, as others are attentive to some segment that is especially meaningful to them.

2. **Silence** for 1-2 minutes. Each hears and silently repeats a word or phrase that attracts.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.saintandrewsabbey.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=35> <Accessed: 26 April 2017

3. Sharing aloud: [A word or phrase that has attracted each person]. A simple statement of one or a few words. **No elaboration.**

**(B) How Christ the Word speaks to ME**  
(The Allegorical Sense)

4. Second reading of same passage by another person.

5. **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Reflect on “Where does the content of this reading touch my life today?”

6. Sharing aloud: **Briefly**: “I hear, I see...”

**(C) What Christ the Word Invites me to DO**  
(The Moral Sense)

7. Third reading by still another person.

8. **Silence** for 2-3 minutes. Reflect on “I believe that God wants me to . . . . . today/this week.”

9. Sharing aloud: at somewhat greater length the results of each one’s reflection. [Be especially aware of what is shared by the person to your right.]

10. After full sharing, pray for the person to your right.

**Note:** Anyone may “pass” at any time. If instead of sharing with the group you prefer to pray silently , simply state this aloud and conclude your silent prayer with **Amen**.