

That They May Have Life

Life Sunday 2027 Children's Message

In today's Bible reading, Jesus talks about some sheep and a robber. Now, who do you suppose Jesus is talking about when He mentions those sheep? *[Wait for responses.]* That's right, Jesus is talking about us. We are Jesus' sheep. He created us, and He loves and cares for us.

But what about that robber? Who do you think Jesus is talking about there? Who does the robber represent? *[Await responses.]* Exactly. That's the devil. And what does Jesus say the robber does to the sheep? *[Await responses.]* Right. He steals them. Jesus even says that he wants to kill and destroy the sheep.

The devil kills by taking us away from Jesus. He encourages us to hurt one another through what we say and do to each other. What do we call that when we say and do hurtful things to each other? *[Await responses.]* Yes! That's what we call sin.

And the devil also encourages us to sin and steals us away from Jesus by telling us that we shouldn't believe in Jesus. He wants us to believe things like, Jesus doesn't love us, or Jesus really isn't God, or that we don't need Jesus' help. And what happens when we stop believing in Jesus? *[Await responses.]* We die. Not in the sense that we stop breathing and our bodies die. At least not right away. When we stop believing in Jesus, our souls die. We stop being Jesus' sheep.

Of course this is not what Jesus wants! He wants us to always be His sheep. So, after Jesus tells us today about the robber who comes to kill and destroy, Jesus talks about Himself. Do you remember what Jesus said about Himself? *[Await responses.]* Yes! He said that He came to give life! The devil wants to kill, but Jesus wants to give us life! Now, how does Jesus give us life? *[Await responses.]* Right. Jesus creates us all. He also came to earth and died to forgive all those sins that we commit against Him and against each other. And what happens when Jesus forgives our sins? We get to stay as Jesus' sheep. He lets us live with Him now and forever in heaven. He loves us and cares for us and protects us from that robber, the devil.

But He doesn't stop there! Remember that one of the ways the devil destroys the sheep is by getting us to hurt one another. And one of the ways that Jesus gives life is by teaching us and helping us to love one another. By teaching us to love each other, Jesus makes us look more and more like Himself, and He keeps us from wandering back into the arms of the robber.



And do you know who Jesus wants us to love? *[Await responses.]* Exactly! He wants us to love everybody. Because Jesus loves everybody. And He has come to give life to everybody. He wants every single person that He has created to have life in Him. That includes the very tiniest people, like the little babies in their mothers' wombs, and those who are sick or who look different from us, and the very oldest people. Jesus loves us all, and He wants to protect everybody from the devil and give them life. And that means that we should want that, too. We should love all our neighbors and help protect their lives. We should take care of them as best as we can and tell them about Jesus so that everybody has the chance to live as Jesus' sheep.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for us and for making us Your sheep and giving us life. Keep us safe from the devil who only wants to hurt and kill us and teach us to love every person that You create so that each person might live with You, now on earth and in heaven forever. Amen.