The Gospel of John
John 10

Memory Verse: *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11 ESV).

Background Helps:
   John 10:1-21 completes the story of Jesus' visit to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles (or shortly thereafter), a story that began way back in John 7:1ff. (see forecast for week #10). Notice the reference to the miracle of the healing of the blind man (John 9) in 10:21. John 10:22-39 records a conversation between Jesus and the Jews in Jerusalem at the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), which took place several months later. The overall theme of these two portions, however, is the same: Jesus as the good shepherd. (By the way, notice here that Jesus is observing a Jewish tradition, Hanukkah [the festival of lights], which was not a feast commanded in the Old Testament Law of Moses but a feast commemorating the purification of the temple in the Maccabean period [165/164 B. C.] between the two testaments.)

Lesson Helps:
   A possible lesson aim: <u>My students will learn that Jesus is the good shepherd, so that they will believe and follow him.</u> This aim is very much the same as last week's, only the image has changed from "the light of the world" to "the good shepherd."

   In preparation for your lesson, do some background study in a Bible dictionary or Bible encyclopedia on the practice of shepherding in New Testament times. Also, check a concordance for background material in the Old Testament on the LORD as a shepherd (e.g., Psalm 23), but don't get bogged down─our lesson is on John 10! Notice Jesus' claim to deity in John 10:30.

   In class, study the analogy of Jesus as a shepherd. Use questions from the daily Bible reading schedule. Use visual aids of Middle Eastern shepherds with their sheep (you can get lots of pictures on line).

   Once again invite your students to believe and follow Jesus as their personal shepherd. For believers, encourage them to commit their lives to the good shepherd's care.

Home Assignment:
📖 Read: John 11
📖 Memorize: John 11:25-26