

## *Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)*

Gospel: John 10:11-18

### Scripture Focus

During the Easter season, we look at how Jesus' Resurrection continues to affect people's lives. In the first reading from Acts, Peter heals a cripple in the manner and power of Jesus. In John's Gospel Jesus describes himself as a good shepherd. He knows his sheep by name; he knows their habits and traits. His sheep know him. His love for them is so great that he freely lays down his life for them. People who know each other in the deep way described in this passage share their thoughts, feelings and will. They become one heart and one mind. Each has no life without the other. Jesus and his Father know each other in that way. Now Jesus tells his followers that they too have a share in this depth and intimacy.

### Life Focus

1. Was there a time when you felt lost and needed someone to find you?
2. Relate a time when you reached out to someone who was "lost."
3. Relate the ways you are a good shepherd to your family and community.
4. Have you allowed the people in your life to come to know you, as Jesus knows his sheep? What gets in the way?

## 1 ½ - Two Hour Format for small Church Community Meeting

Gathering (A few minutes are spent settling down)

### 1. Faith Sharing in Small Groups

Read the gospel of next Sunday out loud. Then take some time to read and reflect on Scripture Focus and Life Focus questions.

Count off for people to form groups of three (four at the most) to share on the Life Focus questions. (20 minutes)

### 2. Faith Sharing with the Whole Group

Reread the gospel passage out loud.

Then entire group focuses attention on answering the following questions: (Remember to honor and respect the confidential nature of the previous faith sharing.)

From your faith sharing in the smaller groups, what touched, encouraged or motivated you?

How might it affect your attitude or actions at home, at work, or in the larger community?

How about your small church community –how might all of you together respond to the gospel's challenge? (20 minutes)

### 3. Shared Prayer

Reread the gospel passage out loud a third time.

Then stand in a circle and take a few turns praying spontaneously together as the Spirit moves the group (prayers of petition, thanksgiving, praise, whatever). This is the time to hear the particular needs of the members and to pray for them.

### Refreshments