

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

May 3, 2020 • 4th Sunday of Easter • John 10:1-10

## Calling His Sheep by Name

*Jesus talks about how the shepherd recognizes his sheep by name. He is the gatekeeper for his sheep. He is the one who leads them out and brings them back in safely. Jesus tells us he is our shepherd, the gatekeeper.*

**W**e know that Jesus came to save us. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we find our salvation in him. He is the gatekeeper. He is the way. He is the new life offered to us. Sometimes we minimize what being saved means. We rejoice in being freed from sin without recognizing what that means or where that forgiveness must lead. Receiving Christ's forgiveness is just the start; salvation is a lifelong, threefold process.

First, being freed from sin means accepting God's forgiveness and love. With that love we can begin to heal from a lifetime of hurts and injustices. We can let go of our fear, our anger, our feeling of "being less than," the anguish of feeling alone, or the need to fill our emptiness with things or people. We can accept our limitations and still see our own goodness and gifts.

Second, through this forgiveness and healing we can begin to accept and truly love ourselves and God who is in us. This is what leads us to fullness of life. We do not let others' ideas of who we are limit us. We can become all we were created to be.

Finally, as we live out our goodness and share our gifts, we become more open to the world around us. We begin to see God everywhere (even in the old grumps at work and the panhandlers on the street).

We begin to grow in communion with our Creator, with all people, and all creation. Life can't be bigger than that!

This is the abundant life Jesus talked about. Share with your family this paradox: Christ's salvation is the gift of his love, a gift that is received even more abundantly when it is given away.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Here's another chance to affirm each other—ask family members to decide on an occupation they think other family members might be good at. Make sure they give their reasons.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Is there someone you have difficulty forgiving? Where are you in the threefold process of forgiveness? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?