



☞ Sunday ☞ Scripture Study



The Sunday Scripture fellowship group follows the early Christians' example, who *"devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers"* (Acts 2:42).

They gather weekly to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Mass readings to allow the Lord to transform their hearts and lives through His word, spiritual companionship, and shared community life.

THANK YOU

Thank you for subscribing to Our Spiritual Family's weekly Sunday Scripture Study! The study guide with the readings and discussion questions will be sent to you via email in a PDF attachment the Monday before the upcoming Sunday.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ss. Simon and Jude Moms Bible Study, their mentorship and ministry is the inspiration for this resource
Fr. Matthew Henry and Annie Buehnerkemper, content developers
Mariah Maza, editor
Taylor Escobedo, graphic designer

Fourth Sunday

EASTER | YEAR A

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

OPENING PRAYER

The Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament Context

There are many biblical references to sheep and shepherds in the Bible. Although these images in Bible stories are familiar, most of us have no firsthand experience or familiarity with the real-life art of raising and protecting sheep. We don't know the skill required to keep a herd together, the different foods they eat, the time of year they birth their lambs, or how shepherds establish a trusting and loving connection with their herd. And yet, we are compared to sheep (*"for you had gone astray like sheep"*), and God is presented as our shepherd (*"the Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want"*) over and over again in Scripture. Jesus himself comes as both the unblemished Lamb of God, sacrificed for our sins, and the Good Shepherd. In the Gospel today, he applies another shepherding metaphor to himself: he is the gate to the safety of the sheepfold. *"Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture"* (John 10: 9). May we meditate deeper on this humble analogy –of sheep, shepherd, and a gated fold– which God wishes to give us as a sign of his protection, gentle guidance, and nurturing love.

FIRST READING

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

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1. Do you think it took courage for Peter to speak so directly to the people?
 2. Why do you think Peter's words had such an immediate impact on the people, inspiring thousands to be baptized that day?
 3. Have you ever witnessed or experienced, through the words of another, the power of the Holy Spirit *"cut someone to the heart?"*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23: 1-6

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1. What is the definition of *"verdant?"*
 2. What are the current *"restful waters"* that refresh your soul?
 3. How could you dwell in the house of the Lord? What do you think David, the psalmist, meant by this verse?

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 20b-25

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1. How is our suffering connected to Christ's suffering?
 2. Are there any examples of "*suffering for doing what is good*" in your current circumstances?
 3. How should we respond and recover when we (or a loved one) fall short of Peter's call to follow Christ's example in our own suffering?

GOSPEL

John 10: 1-10

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1. What connections do you see between the responsorial psalm and the Gospel this week?
 2. What is Jesus illustrating in his description of the gate, shepherd, thieves, robbers, and sheep?
 3. How would you describe the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep in this passage?
 4. How do you recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd?

 **Lord Jesus** 

I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me,
Above all, **I give you my heart** that you may
love in me—your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
Who live and work and pray in me.

 **Amen** 

PRAYER'S AUTHOR UNKNOWN

PRAYER INTENTIONS
