

Interactive Bible Studies



The Love of Jesus

2. The Shepherd Who Knows You – John 10:14–15

This study is part of The Love of Jesus series, a 12-week SOAP Bible study journey focused on seeing the love of Jesus clearly, receiving it personally, and learning how His love changes the way we trust, obey, forgive, serve, and love others.

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Scripture — John 10:14–15 (NIV)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Observation

What title does Jesus give Himself in this passage?

What does Jesus say about His relationship with His sheep?

What does Jesus say is true about His sheep’s relationship with Him?

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How does Jesus compare His knowledge of His sheep with His relationship with the Father?

What does Jesus say He does for the sheep?

What does this passage reveal about Jesus’s personal and sacrificial love?

Application

Where are you most tempted to feel unknown, unseen, forgotten, or misunderstood right now?

What specific fear, burden, relationship, decision, or hidden struggle do you need to bring before the Shepherd who knows you?

How have you been measuring the care of Jesus by whether other people notice, understand, support, or remember you?

What does John 10:14–15 invite you to believe about how personally Jesus knows you and how deeply He loves you?

What is one practical way you can respond in the days ahead by trusting His care, listening for His voice, or resting in the truth that he knows you?

Prayer – Write a prayer naming the place where you feel unknown, unseen, forgotten, or misunderstood. Ask Jesus to help you receive the truth that He knows you personally, loves you deeply, and cares for you as the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

A Word for This Week

Jesus does not describe Himself as a distant leader who barely notices His people. He says, “I am the good shepherd.” Then He says something deeply personal: “I know my sheep.” The love of Jesus is not general, cold, or detached. It is personal. He knows the ones who belong to Him. That can be hard to receive because many people know what it feels like to be overlooked. You may know what it feels like to be misunderstood, forgotten, unseen, or treated like one more person in the crowd. You may carry responsibilities that no one notices. You may have fears you rarely speak out loud or have struggles that are hard to explain. Over time, it can become easy to wonder if anyone really sees what is happening inside you.

Jesus speaks directly to that fear. He does not say, “I know about my sheep.” He says, “I know my sheep.” That is more than awareness. It is relationship. He knows your name, your needs, your weakness, your questions, your burdens, your history, and the places where you feel tired of being strong. He knows what others miss. He understands what others may not know how to carry with you. Jesus also says, “my sheep know me.” His love does not leave His people at a distance. The Good Shepherd draws His sheep into relationship with Himself. He knows them and He teaches them to know Him. He leads them with care, speaks with faithfulness, and does not lose sight of those who belong to Him.

This passage also shows that His love is not only personal. It is sacrificial. Jesus says, “I lay down my life for the sheep.” The Good Shepherd does not simply observe His sheep from far away. He moves toward them in love and gives Himself for them. His care is proven not only by what He knows, but by what He gives.

Take time to name where you feel unknown, unseen, forgotten, or misunderstood. Is it in a responsibility you keep carrying? A relationship where you feel overlooked? A fear you have not spoken of? A decision that feels lonely? A part of your story that still feels hidden? Do not answer generally. Bring the real place before Jesus. Then let the words of Jesus speak over that place: “I know my sheep.” You do not have to perform to be noticed by Him. You do not have to explain yourself perfectly before He cares. You do not have to become louder, stronger, or more impressive to be seen by the Good Shepherd.

The goal is not to convince Jesus to notice you. The goal is to rest in the truth that He already knows you and has already loved you at the cost of His life. You are known by the Good Shepherd.

A Personal Prayer for You

Lord Jesus, I pray for this friend as they reflect on Your love as the Good Shepherd. You see the places where they feel unknown, unseen, forgotten, or misunderstood. You know the burdens they carry quietly, the fears they rarely speak, the questions they may not know how to explain, and the parts of their story that still feel lonely. Help them name those places honestly before You. Do not let them believe they are just one more face in the crowd. Remind them that they are not hidden from You, forgotten by You, or overlooked by You. You know their name, their needs, their weakness, their fears, and the exact places where their heart needs Your care. When they feel overlooked by others, draw them back to Your faithful attention. When they feel misunderstood, steady them with the truth that You know them fully. When they feel forgotten, remind them that the Good Shepherd never loses sight of His sheep.

Thank You for loving them not only with knowledge, but with sacrifice. You laid down Your life for Your sheep. Let that truth quiet fear, soften loneliness, and help them trust that Your care is personal, faithful, and proven by the cross. Teach them to rest in being known by You. Help them listen for Your voice, follow Your lead, and grow in knowing You as the Shepherd who already knows them. Amen.

Continue the Journey

Carry this truth with you into the days ahead. Jesus knows His sheep personally. You are not unknown, unseen, or forgotten by Him. The Good Shepherd sees what others miss, understands what others may not know how to carry, and loves you with sacrificial care. When you feel overlooked, return to His words: “I know my sheep.” When you feel misunderstood, remember that Jesus knows you fully. When you feel forgotten, look again at the Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep.

This is the second step in The Love of Jesus journey. First, Romans 5:8 showed us that Jesus loved us before we were strong. Now John 10:14–15 reminds us that His love is personal and sacrificial. He does not only love sinners generally. He knows His sheep personally, draws them into relationship with Himself, and gives Himself for them. In the next study, you will continue by looking at Matthew 9:36 and reflecting on the compassion of Jesus for people who are harassed, helpless, and broken.