



elev8

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 3**

**The Gospel of John**

**Jesus**

**– the Good Shepherd**

**Bible Readings**

**John 6 to 10**



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- See that Jesus' level of forgiveness is often greater than mankind's.
- Observe Jesus creating significance out of small things.
- Understand Jesus' ability to perform miracles.

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

---

---

---

**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

---

---

---

**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

---

---

---

**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

---

---

---

**Key Question** How willing am I to follow God's direction for my life?

---

---

---

### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

How easy has it been, since we last met, to live the kind of life we have been learning about?

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** John 6:1-40

In the readings we encounter two of Jesus' most well known miracles – the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on water.

Imagine being one of the people who gathered to hear the words of the new rabbi and to learn his radical teachings having been attracted by the miracles where the sick were healed.

When the subject of feeding the crowd was discussed the disciples could not see a solution. All they found was a boy with 5 barley loaves – probably a similar size to our bread rolls – and 2 fish. (Incidentally the fact they were made from barley suggests the boy was poor).

Jesus took the food, thanked God for it and fed over 5,000 people. The leftovers filled 12 baskets. Later in this chapter (v 35) Jesus declares that he is the bread of life.

This passage (and the next section of John we will read) contains some great statements that Jesus makes about himself. He says:

- I am the bread of life (6:35)
- I am the light of the world (8:12)
- I am the gate (10:7)
- I am the good shepherd (10:11)

**Read together:** John 10:1-16

The picture of God/Jesus as the shepherd would not have been a new one to his followers (Psalm 23 for example).

The key for our western minds is to understand that shepherds in Jesus culture operated differently to our own. We see shepherds herding sheep with the use of dogs. The shepherd is behind the sheep pushing them along.

The shepherd they knew led the sheep (no dogs required) and the sheep willingly followed – keen to stay close to their provider and protector.

### Explore – Express

Write a thank you letter to the boy's mother explaining what happened.

Perhaps role play what the boy would have said when he got home.

### Explore – Integrate

- Can you see any similarities between the boy's lunch and your life?
- How is Jesus care for his followers similar to the way a shepherd cares for his flock?
- How easily do you identify yourself as a sheep?
- Do you find it easy to follow Jesus the shepherd or are you inclined to 'wander off' and get into trouble?

### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

#### Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

*Lord, help me to see that my life can be highly significant in your hands. Whilst on my own I can seem small and insignificant but in your hands I can change my world.*

*Help me Lord to stay close to you and not wander from your path or from your influence.*

*Amen.*