

Formed in Prayer

For use in personal or staff prayer



1. Beginning

- Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.
- Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.
- Ask for forgiveness and surrender worries to God.
- Pray the opening prayer.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, I/we ask that you be present in this space. I/we pray that you speak to us through the words of scriptures, forming us through this prayer. I/we ask that the Holy Spirit guides us closer to your likeness.

2. Listening to the Gospel - Sunday 3rd May

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

3. Reflection and Quiet Time

For a reader to be able to understand depth of Jesus' words here, they must be familiar with the context of the time. Shepherds would often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would stay in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would sleep across the entranceway, effectively becoming the gate for the sheepfold. This would allow the shepherd to keep the sheep in the sheepfold, but also to guard against thieves. Thieves could climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off. When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood what he was saying. We must remember to listen for the voice of Jesus in our lives; that is, the voice of the One who laid down His life for us. Our Good Shepherd.

4. Pray for Your Intentions

- Yourself, family and friends
- School or ministry
- Strength, courage or guidance
- Any other needs

5. Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,
You are the Good Shepherd. Open our ears so that we may be attentive to your tender voice, guiding us in the way of truth. Let us place ourselves under your care and protection through daily prayer.
Amen.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7