

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus the good shepherd

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When word spread that Jesus would be teaching, a huge crowd of people gathered at the bottom of a hill just outside of the city. From there, everyone could see and hear. Someone commented that, no matter what the weather may have been earlier, whenever Jesus taught the weather was beautiful. Even the children always seemed to be on their best behavior.

Jesus stood up and motioned with his hands for everyone to sit and listen. Everyone became quiet and turned their eyes toward him as he spoke in his gentle voice.

"I would not tell you anything except the truth," Jesus said. "If a man climbs the fence or tries to get into the sheep pen through anything except the gate, you would know he is probably a thief. He is there only to steal or harm the animals. But the shepherd uses the gate."

Jesus paused and looked around at the many different faces of the people who were watching him.

"Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd and they will follow him when he calls them out," Jesus continued. "And the shepherd knows the names of his sheep. He knows if even one is missing. But the sheep will run away from the thief. I am the gate to the sheep pen. Anyone who enters through me will have rest and safety. I want for all of you to have a fulfilling life."

The people looked at each other wondering what Jesus meant. He is a gate? Who is the thief? How do we enter through Jesus? Jesus answered their



Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

questions with another parable.

"I am the good shepherd. I will watch out for you. A man hired to protect the sheep will run away when a wolf or lion is near. Then the sheep are in danger. But the shepherd cares for the sheep and will not let them come to harm. Even if he has to risk his own life."

Jesus looked up into heaven and said, "God is my father, and he loves me because I willingly give up my life for my sheep. Not only will I give my life, but I will take it back as well. There are things my father wants me to do."

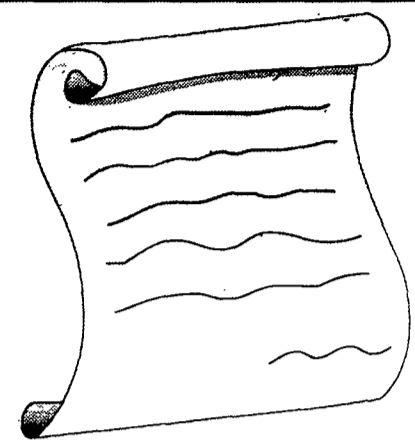
These last remarks by Jesus caused much discussion and disagreement among the people. God is his father? How can he take back his life? Should we believe him? Is he the son of God?

Jesus called his disciples and left quietly. Hardly anyone noticed him leave. They were too busy talking about what he had told them.

### Q&A

#### READ MORE ABOUT IT: John 10

1. Who climbed over the sheep pen fence?
2. Who knows the sheep by their names?



### Bible Accent

John was one of the original Apostles called by Jesus. James, the brother of John, was an Apostle as well.

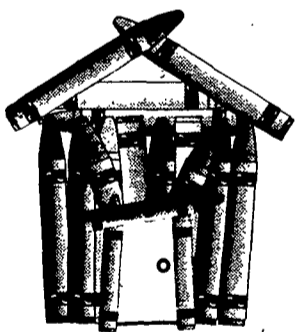
Scholars believe Jesus chose 12 men because there had been 12 tribes of Israel in ancient times. John was very close to Jesus and was with the Lord in many of his important moments, such as the transfiguration. Jesus called him the "beloved disciple."

John is often credited with having written the Gospel that bears his name, three New Testament letters, and even possibly the Book of Revelation. Most Bible scholars agree, though, that it can't be determined exactly who wrote these books.

### Blessed Kateri

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was born in the late 1600s in what is now Auriesville, N.Y. Her mother was an Algonquin who had converted to Christianity. Kateri also became a Christian.

An outbreak of small pox killed everyone in Kateri's family and left her scarred and partially blind. She later left her tribe to join a settlement of Native American Christians in Canada, where she spent the rest of her life setting an example of Christian devotion. We remember her on April 17.



### Essay

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

**Jesus said he is our shepherd. Why is it important for us to listen to him?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is April 24, 1997. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by

mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Lauren Bell, a fourth-grade student at St. Joseph's School, Penfield. In response to the question **How might the world be different if Jesus had not yet died for our sins?** she wrote:

The world would be different because we would not have an eternal life to live in heaven. The air would still have hate in it. We would still have all our sins. There would be no happy Easter. The world wouldn't be so beautiful as it is now.

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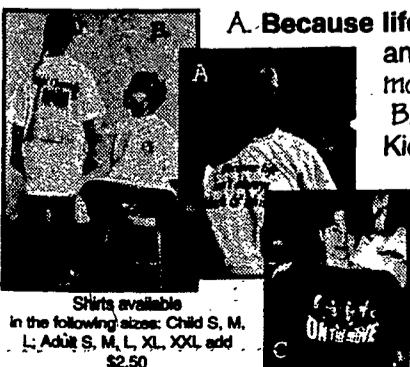
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### New Testament Quiz

Using your Bible, answer the following questions about the New Testament. Answers on page 12.

1. What is the first book of the New Testament?
2. What is the last book?
3. What book comes after the Gospel of John?
4. How many Gospels are there?
5. How many books have the name of John in their titles?
6. What is the shortest book?



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