

Toward the end of John’s gospel, we read of Jesus asking Peter if he loves him—three times in a row (John 21:15-17). Each time, Peter says yes. To Peter’s affirmations, Jesus says, respectively, “Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep.” In other words, be a shepherd to Jesus’ flock.

As part of Jesus’ flock, today we will be fed with Peter’s words from 1 Peter 1:22-25, beginning with a reminder to love.

- I. Love
 - a. God’s love for us
 - b. God’s commands for his people to respond in love
 - c. God’s love is in our spiritual DNA

- II. Life
 - a. Born again
 - b. Imperishable seed
 - c. Through the living and enduring word of God

- III. Word
 - a. Isaiah 40:6-8 to encourage believers in exile
 - b. Contrasted with the brevity of human life
 - c. Hearing, believing, receiving, resonating, living

I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book.

– John Wesley

And let us be a people of one hope, one life, and one love—in Jesus Christ. He *is* the way to heaven, and the one book is all about him.