



“The Good Shepherd”

(John 10:1-13)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

Getting on the Same Page

The invitation to “come and see” is an invitation to experience Jesus for who he really is. He is the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd cares for his flock. He feeds them. He leads and guides them. He corrects and protects them. He knows each of his sheep by name. He has a personal and intimate knowledge of any fears, concerns or hurts. He lays down his life for his flock, willingly choosing to meet the needs of the flock before his own.

“The lord is MY shepherd.” (Psalm 23:1)

That means I’m his sheep. What kind of sheep am I? Do I hear his voice? Do I follow his lead? Do I respond to his guidance and correction? Am I close or am I wandering? No matter what kind of sheep I am, he’s still my good shepherd. No one can snatch me from his hand and he’s not letting go (John 10:28). My good shepherd is willing to leave a lot behind to meet me where I’m at and make sure I know that he’s there for me. (Matthew 18:12)

Discussion Questions

- Discuss what you remember about shepherds and sheep from the bible. What are some of your favorite bible stories about sheep or shepherds? For example, Psalm 23 or the Parable of the Wandering Sheep (Matthew 8:10-14)
- Read John 10:1-5 What stands out to you in this passage? Compare and contrast the one who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate with the shepherd that does enter by the gate.

- What are some ways you have experienced or observed people being ripped off by “thieves and robbers”? (Bad shepherds, Pharisees, hired hands (verse 12) or religious hypocrites.)
- What does the Good Shepherd offer to refresh the souls of the sheep who have been injured by “wolves”? (Psalm 23:1-3) What does the Good Shepherd offer to help avoid those injuries in the first place? (Psalm 23:4)
- Reflect on the security found in the Good Shepherd (John 10:28).
- The sheep know the Good Shepherd's voice. (John 10:4). What might the voice of the Shepherd sound like to a wandering sheep (Matthew 18:13)? What tone and words might the Good Shepherd use? How does the invitation to “come and see” apply to a wandering sheep?