

The Good Shepherd

Open The Conversation: What's your favorite breakfast food?

Key Scripture: Read the following together.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

John 10:11-13

1. What does this scripture tell me about me?
2. What does this scripture tell me about God?

Start Sharing: Choose one question to start the conversation, move onto others if time allows.

- Where are you still trying to be your own shepherd? What area of your life—provision, protection, direction, relationships, future, or something else—are you still carrying as though everything depends on you?
- What would it look like for you to “come off watch duty” and trust Jesus in that area? What specifically do you need to surrender to the Good Shepherd rather than continuing to manage, control, or worry about it?
- Do you really believe that Jesus knows you completely and still chooses you? Is there something about your past, your weakness, or your current circumstances that makes it difficult for you to believe that His knowledge of you doesn't diminish His love for you?
- Why do you think self-shepherding is so difficult to give up? What makes us want to remain responsible for our own provision, protection, and direction even when we know Jesus invites us to trust Him?
- On Sunday Pastor Jay contrasted “hirelings” with the Good Shepherd. What difference does it make to know that Jesus doesn't abandon His sheep when things become costly, difficult, or inconvenient? How might that change the way we respond when we're disappointed by people who have let us down?

Start Praying: Pray together and for one another.

“Jesus, we choose to walk through your door every day! We choose to embrace life found in You. Help us to shine Your light so all may see and know they are invited to walk through Your Door. Amen.”