



May 1, 2016

MAIN TEXT:
John 10:11

I AM
The Good Shepherd

GETTING STARTED

If you were an animal, what animal would you be? For those of you who are saying, “what do you mean if ?”...you are correct in that, we are described as sheep in the Bible. What do you know about sheep?

LESSON OVERVIEW

This week, the lesson is designed to help us hear and discern the voice of God. Let's face it, we live in a very noisy world. The phone rings, emails arrive, face book alerts, meetings come and go, kids demand attention - hours turn into days and days into weeks and pretty soon we have gone a long time without hearing from God.

The Bible refers to God as our shepherd. He is our provider, sustainer, caretaker and friend. He calls us by name, leads us to still waters and restores our souls. Do you hear him? Or have the sounds of the world deafened you to his still small voice in your life? As he calls, we must answer. As he leads, we must follow.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. As a group, read John 10:11-18 out loud before you start.
2. Discuss the role of a shepherd (see Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; Ezekiel 34:23). What does a shepherd do for his sheep? What are his responsibilities? What sacrifices does he make for his sheep?

3. How does the shepherd/sheep relationship compare to our relationship with Jesus?
4. Being referred to as Jesus' sheep means that we are dependent on him. Have you ever tried to be your own shepherd? What was the result? How can you be more dependent on Jesus to lead you?
5. Have you ever been in a relationship where someone shepherded you? If so, share with the group. What did that relationship look like? Did you have any defining moments as a result?
6. Do you feel like you are being shepherded now? Are you shepherding others? What benefits might we realize if we did this?

TAKE IT HOME

application

Think about a person who you would like to shepherd. Pray over him or her this week and ask for godly direction on how to approach them and start that conversation.

If you've been shepherded by someone in the past, reach out to them this week and thank them for the way they impacted you. Encourage them to continue shepherding others and pray for them.

Pair up with someone in your group so that they can keep you accountable for reaching out to these individuals.

READING PLAN

MONDAY

Isaiah 40:1-11

TUESDAY

Psalm 23

WEDNESDAY

Psalm 78:40-55

THURSDAY

Hebrews 13:1-21

FRIDAY

1 Peter 2:13-25

I AM the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep