

The Good Shepherd

1. Have you ever felt like a sheep that has been separated from the rest of the flock? Were you surprised when you were pursued and restored? Or were you relieved? On the other hand, did you feel abandoned and neglected?
2. In the parable of the Good Shepherd (Luke 15:1-7), how do you feel about the shepherd leaving the main body of the flock and focusing all his attention on one individual who wandered?
3. Have you ever experienced an unexpected expression of costly love from God or another source? Or perhaps you can share a time when you, yourself engaged in an act of unexpected costly love for another.
4. What do you think about the feminine attributes of God that are depicted in the story of the woman searching diligently for her lost coin (Luke 15:7-10)?
5. In the story of the loving father (Luke 15:25-32), the elder son is depicted as ungrateful and disrespectful, yet his father expresses love, acceptance, and forgiveness to him. We are not told by Jesus how the story ends. How do you think the story ends? Does the elder son reject his father's invitation? Or does he soften his response and participate in the reconciliation?