

## **Title: Good Shepherds**

### **Big Idea: A good shepherd does what is good for the sheep.**

Ezekiel 34:1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, *but* you do not feed the flock. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.

1. Good shepherds help with purpose.

### **The point of leadership is to help people get somewhere or be someone they couldn't get or be without help.**

10 Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.” 11 ‘For thus says the Lord GOD: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

John 10:1 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

### **2. Thieves & robbers are not to be trusted.**

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

### **3. Good shepherds have real authority.**

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

He feeds us & leads us, so we are strong & healthy & productive in His fold.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

**Abundant:** more than enough, overflowing, excessive, beyond what is necessary, extraordinary, surpassing

### **4. Trust the Door & Follow the Good Shepherd.**

### **LIFE Group Discussion Questions**

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. How does Ezekiel 34:13-14 help us understand Jesus' mission?
3. We learned "leadership is about helping people get somewhere or be someone they could not be without help". Does this definition challenge or affirm what you think about being a leader?
4. How can we distinguish between voices that are trying to steal, kill, and destroy versus the voice of the Good Shepherd?
5. What are "red flags" that indicate someone might be a spiritual thief or robber rather than a good shepherd?
6. Jesus says He is "the door". What does this metaphor teach us about His role in our lives?