

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream
April 19, 2020

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

Discussion Guide: The Real Jesus - Week 4

Discussion Starter 1: Pastor Sam shared in this message how the Bible uses the Shepherd/Sheep imagery to describe God (Shepherd) and God's people (Sheep). A shepherd leads the sheep, cares for the sheep, and delivers the sheep from dangerous situations. Talk with your small group or family about how God has been your Shepherd in this current pandemic. How has God led you, cared for you, and delivered you?

Discussion Starter 2: Read Isaiah 40:11. The Prophet Isaiah used the Shepherd/Sheep imagery in a vivid way in the verse you just read. When you read about being carried and held close to the Shepherd's heart, how does this encourage you in your relationship with God? Discuss with your family or small group other ways this verse could help you as you follow Jesus.

Self-Evaluation: The hired hands (false religious leaders) in John 10 do not lead the sheep, care for the sheep, or protect the sheep like the Good Shepherd. The hired hands abandon the sheep because they are only interested when they have something to gain. Who are you listening to and reading on your Journey with Jesus? We must measure any pastor or teacher by whether they are a hired hand or a shepherd/pastor that is under the Good Shepherd. Here is a question to use to distinguish between good and bad: Is the preacher or teacher you are listening to encouraging you to follow them, their ministry, or Jesus? We need to reject any teacher who is promoting themselves more than Jesus. Are you testing all teaching and preaching you receive with God's Word? Make sure you investigate the lives of those you watch and listen to and see if they are Shepherds under the Good Shepherd or hired hands who are not shepherds at all.

Going Deeper: Read John 10:14-18. Pastor Sam started by saying, "Today is about the Shepherd who became a Lamb to save the sheep so that he could be their shepherd." Talk with you small group or family about how Jesus was our Shepherd before He ever came to us. Talk about how Jesus chose to become the Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins. Read Revelation 7:17. Talk about how Jesus is now and forever both our Shepherd and the lamb that was slain for us.

Doing the Word: How can you know whether you are in the Good Shepherd's flock? In John 10:27 Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Have you heard His voice? God speaks primarily through His Word through the Holy Spirit. Have you responded to His voice? Jesus knows His sheep and He calls them by name. You may not hear an audible voice. It may actually be louder. The result of hearing Him and trusting fully in the Good Shepherd is that you will begin to follow Jesus. There is always a change when the Good Shepherd calls us into His sheepfold. How have you seen this change in your life? Is Jesus the Shepherd of your life? How can you follow Jesus this week? Is there someone in your life that does not know the Good Shepherd? How could you introduce them to Jesus and help them to hear His voice by sharing the Good News about Jesus from the Bible?