



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Aftermath: The 7 'I Am' Statements of Jesus

March 12, 2023

The AFTERMATH: Jesus says, "I AM..."

The Good Shepherd

For the next several weeks our sermon series will focus on the "I Am" statements Jesus makes in the book of John. This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTERS

Who is the best leader you have ever known? What made them a good leader?

➤ EXPLORATION

Last week we looked at John 10:1-5 where, in a parable, Jesus reveals himself as "The gate for the sheep." He is speaking to the Pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) using the analogy of the relationship between a Shepherd and the sheep. This week, we see this analogy continue.

As we read, keep in mind these three things that Jesus, as the Good Shepherd does:

- Lays down his life for the sheep
- Knows the sheep
- Welcomes in and cares for other sheep

John 10:11-13 (From your bible, read aloud)

Here we read the difference between a good shepherd and a hired hand. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. The hired hand doesn't lay down his life for the sheep, in fact, when the wolf comes, he runs away.

The hired hand is more interested in ensuring his own safety than he is about the safety of the sheep.

In this parable, the Good Shepherd is Jesus, we are the sheep and the Hired Hand is anyone who tries to lead the sheep for their own benefit or agenda. So who or what does the wolf represent? When we consider the context of this entire passage we see that the warning is about those who try to lead us away from Jesus. This can happen subtly or overtly.

What are some distractions that pull your focus away from fully following Jesus?

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life

As human beings we are all susceptible to distractions. None of us is perfect! This is why we need a "Good Shepherd" to guide us. The following verses remind us Jesus laid down his life so that we could have abundant life now and throughout eternity.

Romans 2:12 (From your bible, read aloud)

Romans 8:1-2 (From your bible, read aloud)

Hebrews 9:27-28 (From your bible, read aloud)

What did you notice from these passages?

Jesus the Good Shepherd: Knows the Sheep

John 10:14-15 (From your bible, read aloud)

One of the duties of a shepherd is to regularly inspect the sheep, looking for any injury or wound that needs attention. The good shepherd searches the sheep and a healthy sheep would allow the gentle and caring search

of the shepherd. In order for the sheep to benefit from the loving inspection of the shepherd, they must stop and allow the shepherd access.

This kind of regular inspection requires trust that the shepherd has the very best in mind for the sheep. And in turn, the sheep must allow the gentle hands of the shepherd to do his work.

What are some of the ways in which you regularly invite God to search your heart and your life?

Jesus the Good Shepherd: Welcomes Other Sheep

John 10:16 (From your bible, read aloud)

This verse is sometimes referred to as the great missionary text in the gospel of John. It reminds us that there are many who do not yet know Jesus.

This can be challenging for people who are comfortable just being part of their “flock”. Once they feel safe and secure, they don’t want anything to change. But this verse reminds us that there is room for others, even if they are different from us.

1 John 3:16-18 (From your bible, read aloud)

Matthew 9:36-38 “When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Who are the people in your life who do not yet have faith in Jesus?

How might God be leading you to share his love with them?

John 10:17-18 (From your bible, read aloud)

As the parable concludes, Jesus assures his listeners that he is not a victim or a martyr. The Good Shepherd willingly pays the price for the wellbeing of the sheep. Jesus willingly paid the price for you.

> TAKE AWAY

As we finish our time together, take a few moments to reflect on these three attributes of a good shepherd:

- Jesus lays down his life for the sheep

Jesus, thank you for willingly laying down your life for me. It is only through you that I am able to live a full life with confidence and freedom.

- Jesus knows the sheep

Jesus, thank you for patiently caring for me, even when I resist your loving attention. I know you have the very best in mind for me. I trust you with my life.

- Jesus welcomes in and cares for other sheep

Jesus, help me to see those around me who need to know you. Give me the courage to share the good news of your love with them.

Pray together that you will be open to the work of the Good Shepherd in your life this week.

> OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

PROJECT BOON is a local non-profit organization that amplifies the power of community through events to help make ends meet for the underserved. They are inviting us to serve at the following event:

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT

- Saturday, April 1st
- 9:00am-12:30pm OR 12:30pm-4:00pm
- Location: 9680 Citrus Ave, Fontana CA 92335

Volunteers will assist with event set-up, organizing groceries, building treat bags, and distributing to families as they walk through the event.

Sign-up to serve [HERE](#) For more information go to projectboon.org or contact Summer Ramsey at Hillside Community Church Sramsey@hillsidechurches.com