

The Good Shepherd  
**WEEK**



## Begin this time by reading the seven “I Am” statements aloud as a group:

- 1) Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” – John 6:35 (The Bread of Life)
- 2) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” – John 8:12 (The Light of the World)
- 3) “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.” – John 10:9 (The Door or The Gate for the Sheep)
- 4) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” – John 10:11,14 (The Good Shepherd)
- 5) Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing

in me will never die. Do you believe this?” – John 11:25-26 (The Resurrection and the Life)

6) Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6 (The Way and the Truth and the Life)

7) “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener...I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:1, 5 (The True Vine)

- 
- Which of these statements are you holding fast to this week? Which of these great truths about Jesus refreshes your heart today?

## Watch Video:

As a group, watch the series video, "The Good Shepherd".

## In The Word:

Read Ezekiel 34:1-5 and Jeremiah 23:1-5

- Who were the shepherds that Ezekiel prophesied against? How is the relationship between the shepherds and the sheep described?
- What is the charge that the Lord holds against them? What is the result of their neglect?
- What does the Lord promise He will do?

Read Matthew 9:35-37

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus? What does it mean to have compassion towards someone? Would people describe you as compassionate?

Read John 10:11-21

- What are the differences between the hired hand and the good shepherd? What is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep?
- How does it make you feel to know that you are fully known and fully loved by Jesus, the Good Shepherd? How does this truth change the way you live?

## Prayer:

Pray Psalm 23, meditating and reflecting on the compassion God has for His people:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." - Psalm 23:1-6.

## Apply:

- On your own, read 1 Timothy 5:17-18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Thank God for the shepherds that He has placed above us in this church. Consider writing them a thank you note or sending a text, being as specific as possible, and thanking them for the way that they care for and encourage our church.
- As a part of the Body of Christ, we all have a role to play in caring for one another. What can you do to love, serve, and sacrifice for your brothers and sisters in the faith?



## **Memorize**

**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”**

**– John 10:11,14**