

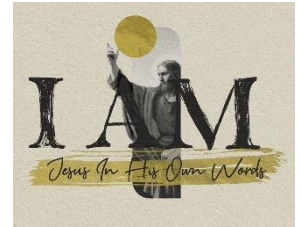
Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Summer Series: I AM – Jesus In His Own Words

Message: I AM the Good Shepherd

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: July 30, 2023



Connect (30min)

1. SUMMER FAVES for 2023

- *Favorite place walk/hike? *Favorite place to swim? *Favorite place to eat?
- *Favorite movie you've seen? *Favorite song on your playlist? *Favorite Book?
- + What is 1 thing you are looking forward to in August?

2. FAITH FOCUS

What has encouraged or challenged you from your personal devotions (reading/prayer) this week?

Share one highlight with the group – an insight, encouragement, challenge or application.

What are your devotional plans for August?

3. P.R.A.Y. – BE BOLD IN ENCOURAGEMENT. July/August Prayer Focus.

📖 **Word:** [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#).

Encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

🙏 **Pray:** Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.

- Pause (be still & listen. 2min) -- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),
- Ask (invite & request 4min.) -- Yes (surrender & trust. 2min)

Message Discussion (30min)

1. Think about someone who has been a guide or helper for you in your life.

What did that person do or say that helped you or provided guidance when you needed it?

2. **Feedback:** What did you learn from Sunday's message? What challenged or encouraged you?

3. **THE SHEPHERD PSALM** - Read 📖 [Psalm 23](#)

- a. **What does this Scripture teach you about God as a *shepherd*.**
- b. **What do you learn about us as *sheep*?**

4. THE GOOD SHEPHERD - Read [John 10:11-21](#)

- a. The Old Testament – is rich with images of good shepherds. Name some particularly ‘good shepherds’ in the history of Israel and what made them ‘good’?
(You may want to look at [Exodus 3:1-6](#); [1 Samuel 16:11-13](#); and [Psalm 78:70-72](#)).
- b. Jesus contrasts the good shepherd and the hired hand in John 10:11-13. What are the main differences? What does this tell you about who Jesus is?
(To dig deeper, take a look at [Ezekiel 34](#)).

5. HEARING GOD

- a. What do you think about *hearing God’s* voice in your life?
Do you find it easy or difficult to hear God’s voice in your life? Discuss.
- b. Although it may sound strange to us, there is a relationship that exists between a shepherd and the sheep. The sheep grow familiar with the shepherd’s voice. Jesus says, “I know my sheep and the sheep know Me” (10:14), and also, “the sheep listen to his voice” (10:3).
What do you think it looks like for us, as Jesus’ sheep, to have that sort of relationship with Him, our good shepherd?

6. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

- a. Jesus twice mentions the idea of the good shepherd as one who “lays down his life for the sheep” (10:11 and 17). What do you think Jesus meant by this, and how does this impact you and your relationship with Him?
- b. Read **Psalm 23** again out loud. This is a powerful picture of the Lord as our shepherd.
Consider one specific area of your life where you need Jesus to be your shepherd?
Share in your Life Group and pray for one another about these things.

Prayer (15min)

***In response to the message, scripture and discussion – how can we pray for you?**

God’s Power – Provision – Protection – Presence - Peace

***Who is one person in your life who we can pray for?**

God’s Power – Provision – Protection – Presence - Peace

Resources

Book: [A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23, W. Phillip Keller](#)

Songs: [Psalm 23 \(Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy\), Shane & Shane](#)
[The Lord Is My Shepherd, Jeremy Riddle](#)