



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Expecting

John 10:1-21

- **The Good Shepherd Knows Your Name.** Jesus doesn't just see a crowd; he sees individuals. Just as a penguin chick recognizes the specific call of its parent amidst a noisy colony, we are called to recognize the voice of the one who created us. What are some examples of times when it has been clear there is a God who knows your name and sees you for who you really are? How can we share that good news with other people?
- **Jesus as the "Gate" for Life.** Many "thieves and robbers" in our world—politicians, brands, or influencers—promise "life to the full" if we just follow them. Jesus disrupts this by claiming he is the only true gate to security, life, and life to the full. Are there "thieves" in your life currently robbing you of your joy or human dignity? Where are our friends and neighbors tempted to trust their life to thieves and robbers?
- **A Different Kind of "Everlasting Father".** What does it mean that the Everlasting Father lays down their life for their sheep? What do we learn about who God is through Jesus' willingness to suffer and die to love us? What are the difference between a hired hand and a shepherd?
- **Finding other sheep.** Jesus is clear that his mission isn't just for those already in the "pen". He is actively finding and calling to "other sheep" who don't yet know they are loved or seen. How does it change your view of your neighbors to know that God is currently "singing" a song of love to people who haven't responded yet?
- **Presence over opinions.** This week, will people learn about the "hired hands" in your life through you, or will they experience the Good Shepherd? How can you live in a way that your neighbors sense the commitment of Jesus through your talk and your love? How might you talk about your faith in a way that helps others to know they are loved and seen by God when all the lights, presents, and Santa-fun goes away?