



**I Am... the Good Shepherd
July 23, 2017**

Ezekiel 34:2-6

How do we know if he is GOOD?

- 1. He is the ULTIMATE SACRIFICE**
 - a. John 10:11-13; Romans 12:1

- 2. He peruses us with INTENTIONAL INTIMACY**
 - a. John 10:14-16; John 17:22-23; Luke 3:22

- 3. He acts with AFFECTIONATE AUTHORITY**
 - a. John 10:17-21

Home/Group Study

Read John 10:11-21; Psalm 23

1. Spend a few minutes listing some of the major roles of a shepherd. How does your understanding of the role of a shepherd help you understand Jesus better?
2. In the same breath Jesus describes Himself as 'The Gate' and 'The Good Shepherd'. What would you say is the difference between these roles?
3. Jesus is clearly differentiating between HIS commitment to the sheep vs. that of the hired hand. What does it mean to you that Jesus, Our Shepherd, is willing to (and DID!) lay down His life for you?
4. Are there people or life styles you are following (clinging to) that, like the hired hand, will 'flee' the moment you need them most? What keeps you hanging on to them?
5. How have the conditional expressions of love that you have experienced from imperfect people impacted your capacity to believe in the unconditional love of Christ?
6. What can you do to throw off the false love of hired hands and/or thieves and robbers in order to more deeply understand the perfect love and care of Christ?