

I AM - ENCOUNTERING THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

The Good Shepherd who Gives Rest

- Family Worship Scripture Readings

- Matthew 21:1-11
- John 10:11-18
- John 16:16-24

- Message Reflection - Ezekiel 34:22-31

• God's Initiative — "I Will"

- Save my flock
- Judge my flock
- Establish one shepherd over them
- Be their God
- Make a covenant of peace
- Make them and the area around them a blessing
- Send down showers of blessing
- Establish a place for them free from famine

• The Promised Shepherd — "He Will"

- Tend them
- Be a prince among them

• The Result — "They Will"

- Know I am the Lord
- No longer be prey
- Live securely
- No longer endure insults of the nations
- Know I, the Lord their God, am with them.
- Know they are my people.

• Know the Certainty of this Promise

- "I, the Lord, have spoken."
 - 3 times this phrase is repeated
 - Recall Isaiah 55:11 — My word does not return to me void or empty. It accomplishes everything I send it to do

• Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?

- Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Trust the Word of God is faithful and true. (Hebrews 11:1, Revelation 19:11-13)
- Then the promises of God, the future tense becomes your present reality.
 - Ezekiel 34:31 — You are my flock, the human flock of my pasture, and I am your God.
- The "I will" of God becomes the "I Am" of Jesus (John 10:11)
- All the promises of God are Yes and Amen in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Reflecting on the Day

- The Table Experience
 - What stood out to you about taking communion at a table with others rather than individually?
 - How did hearing others share about the Shepherd's care impact you?
 - Was there anything said at your table that encouraged or challenged your faith?

- Seeing the Shepherd's Care (Ezekiel 34)
 - Which of the "I will" statements from God stood out most to you, and why?
 - What does it reveal about God's character that He takes full responsibility for His flock?

- Connecting Promise to Fulfillment (Ezekiel -> John 10)
 - How does seeing Jesus as the fulfillment of Ezekiel 34 deepen your understanding of Him as the Good Shepherd?
 - Why is it significant that Jesus identifies Himself not just as a shepherd, but the Good Shepherd?

- The Shepherd Who Laid Down His Life
 - How is Jesus different from the "hired hand" He describes in John 10?
 - In what ways do we sometimes live like we are on our own instead of under the care of the Shepherd?

- Living as His Flock (Ezekiel 34:31)
 - What does it look like to live daily with that identity?
 - Where in your life do you need to trust the Shepherd more right now?
 - What would it look like for you to more clearly recognize and follow His voice?

- Trusting the Certainty of God's Word
 - The passage repeats, "I, the Lord, have spoken."
 - Why is that important for our faith?
 - How does Isaiah 55:11 and 2 Corinthians 1:20 strengthen your confidence in God's promises?

- From Future Promise to Present Reality
 - What does that look like practically for the promises of God to become your present reality in your life?
 - How does faith make unseen promises feel real and active today?