

## The Good Shepherd | John 10:11-21 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To uncover a practical way we need to be shepherded by Jesus.

**Sermon Reminder:** Jesus is More. Dave continued our series through the I Am statements of Jesus by looking at "I am the good shepherd." While this phrase may have become commonplace for some of us, if we listen to what Jesus is really telling us, we will be amazed by his love for us.

**Icebreaker:** What has been your favorite pet?

**Transition:** We can develop a profound love for an animal, but there is nothing that comes to the level of love the good shepherd feels for his sheep.

### Discussion

#### Read:

[Matthew 9:36](#)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

[Ezekiel 34:5-6](#)

<sup>5</sup> So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; <sup>6</sup> they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

1. Why do sheep need a shepherd?
2. If we are described as sheep without a shepherd, what does that say about us?

**Transition:** Shepherd is sometimes used as a term for religious leaders in the Old Testament. By the time of the prophets near the end of the Old Testament, the

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

religious leaders are described as having failed to shepherd the people well. The people needed a better shepherd.

## Read:

[Ezekiel 34:2-4](#)

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup> You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup> The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

3. In what way have the shepherds failed?

## Read:

[Isaiah 40:10-11](#)

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

4. In this Old Testament passage, who is the one who will come to shepherd his people?

## Read:

[John 10:11-18](#)

<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

5. How would Jesus saying “I am the good shepherd” been a shocking statement to those listening?
6. How does Jesus feel about his sheep?
7. What does Jesus do for his sheep? What is amazing about that?
8. What is a way you personally need Jesus to shepherd you into his bigger story right now?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

- Pray for each other in light of what people shared about a way we need Jesus to shepherd us.
- Close with thanks for Jesus being our good shepherd.