



WEEK 3

## I Am the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-6, 11-18

### OPEN

This week we are continuing our series called "I Am" where we look at the 7 "I Am" statements of Jesus throughout the gospel of John. The purpose of John's account is to present the identity of Jesus clearly so that "you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Each of the 7 "I AM" statements help answer the question "who is Jesus?" and describe the type of relationship He wants to have with each of us. The statements are not simply to help us know more about Jesus, but rather to know Him more intimately and in such a way that transforms who we are and what we do. This week we are examining the third "I Am" statement in John 10 where Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd."

### READ

- **Read Ezekiel 34:1-6, and 34:11-16**
  - This passage provides important context for the I AM statement that Jesus makes about Himself in John 10.
  - How does the contrast of the bad shepherds described in Ezekiel bring further clarity to the kind of relationships that Jesus desires to have with His sheep as their Good Shepherd?
- **Read Psalm 23**
  - According to this passage, what does it mean for Jesus to be our Shepherd?
  - What similarities or links are there between Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34?
  - Why do you think this passage has been a source of comfort to so many people? How does it comfort you?

### REFLECT

- Continue to reflect on Psalm 23.
  - What words or statements speak most powerfully to you about Jesus' leadership in your life?
  - How does this passage encourage or challenge your expectations about what it looks like to follow Jesus?
- In John 10:4, Jesus says that the sheep follow the shepherd because **"they know his voice."**
  - How would you describe your ability to recognize the voice of Jesus in your daily life?
  - How can you ensure that what you are hearing is truly His voice?
  - What would it look like for you to listen more *intentionally* and *attentively* to His voice?
- In John 10:11, Jesus says that **"the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"** because of his love and care for the sheep.
  - What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for you on the Cross?

### APPLY/PRAY

- Take some time to listen to the voice of Jesus. What is Jesus saying to you individually or as a group right now?

In Ephesians 3:17-19, Paul prayed: **"I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."**

- Invite the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh revelation of the extent of God's love for you. Give thanks together for the sacrifice that Jesus made for you by laying down His life at the Cross.
- Where do you need to experience the love of God more in your life today? Pray that for one another.

