



## HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 5: Jan 30-Feb 5th

What separates the *good* shepherd from anyone else? Is it training? Skill? A magnetic personality? No, the good shepherd is one who cares deeply. He's on high-alert for threats to the flock. A regular "shepherd" might go through the motions but is only on high-alert for a paycheck. If danger looms, he's the first to run. The good shepherd, though? He couldn't be more different! He *runs* into the fray and willingly pays all that He has to save his poor, defenseless creatures. He's the Shepherd we sheep would do well to stay close by.

Main Texts: John 10:1-21 (emphasis on verses 11-21); see Ezekiel 34 for background

### CONNECT

1. What are some differences you've observed between people who work only for a paycheck and those who work out of loyalty to a mission or love for those around them?
2. What did you find most significant in this week's sermon? What questions did it leave in your mind?

### LEARN

3. Early in chapter 10, Jesus describes how the sheep know the voice of the true shepherd. As practical as you can be, what do you think it means for Jesus' followers to "know his voice" (v. 4)?
4. Jesus contrasts the *good shepherd* with the *hired hand* in verses 11-13. What are the main differences you see?
5. How does Jesus' death fulfill or express the description of the good shepherd? How does it also relate to the purpose Jesus states for his life in verse 10? In other words, how does His death lead to abundant life for His sheep?
6. In verse 18, why do you think it's important that Jesus lays down His life of his "own accord" and that he has "authority to take it up again"?

### APPLY

7. What does it look like for you to hear and know Jesus' voice? How does a person know Jesus' voice from all the other "noise" and "voices" of our world?
8. How does it make you feel to think of Jesus caring for you as the Good Shepherd?

9. John 10 presents our situation as one of complete safety as we walk with Jesus, but grave danger if we stray from His side. What form do the dangers (i.e., the “thief” and the “wolf”) of our world take on today?

**GOING DEEPER** (a.k.a., Extra Credit!)

Jesus is our Good Shepherd who protects and provides for us both in this life and in the life to come. Psalm 23 expresses this reality in a beautiful, vivid fashion. We encourage you to read Psalm 23 again this week, but as an exercise of worship, consider substituting the word *LORD* in verses 1 and 6 with “Jesus.” Do the same with all of the 3rd person pronouns (“he”). David knew God by the Hebrew name, *YHWH (Yahweh)*, which appears as *LORD* in our English translations. He didn’t have the privilege, though, of knowing that this same “Shepherd” is *Jesus!*

As you read through the psalm, reflect on how Jesus fulfills David’s Spirit-inspired words. You can do this as a personal exercise, but it could be great for your group to do together.

Answer the question, *How have you seen Jesus do these things in your life?*