



7-WEEK STUDY

on the seven **I Am** statements of Jesus

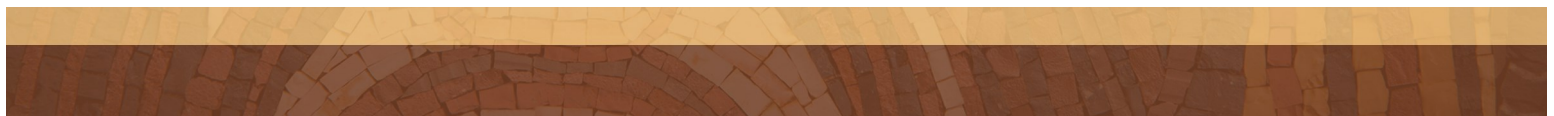
WEEK 4

Discussion Guide

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:11

To people who felt lost, I was trustworthy. **I still am.**





WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: John 10:11-17

Secondary texts from this week: Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' statement "I am the good shepherd."

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What was your very first job?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think about someone who has been a guide or helper for you in your life. What did that person do or say that helped you or provided guidance when you needed it?
2. How has God led you or guided you during specific situations in your life?
3. Have group members look up the following passages and read them out loud: **Psalm 79:13, Psalm 95:7, Psalm 100:3;** and **Isaiah 53:6**. What do these passages communicate about our relationship with God?
4. Have someone in the group read **Psalm 23** out loud. Make a list of all the things the shepherd does for his people. What are some ways God has been like the shepherd from Psalm 23 in your own life?
5. Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd and drew a sharp contrast between himself and the "hired hands," the thieves, and the robbers. Who were these "bad shepherds" in Jesus' day? Who might be considered as "bad shepherds" today?
6. Have someone in the group read Jesus' words in **John 10:11** and **John 10:15**. Have someone else read **Romans 5:6-10**. According to Romans 5:6-10, what did Christ's death accomplish for us?
7. In John **10:11-17** Jesus indicates that his sheep know him and recognize his voice. In fact, he says, they will not listen to the voice of a stranger. What are some ways we can tune our ear to better recognize the voice of our shepherd?

Bonus trivia question: How many shepherds you can think of in the Bible? (**hint:** Abel, Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Laban, Jacob's twelve sons including Joseph, Jethro, Moses, David, the prophet Amos)



PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would be encouraged by the fact that they have a good shepherd who loves them, guides them, leads them, and protects them.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would help you better hear the voice of your shepherd this week.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week, read Psalm 23 before you go to bed every night. Say a short prayer and thank the Lord for being your good shepherd.

NOTES

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