

Home Group Leaders Notes
The "I AM" Sermon Series
"I AM the Good Shepherd"
Week 5

INTRODUCTION FOR LEADERS

The focus of this series is on "Jesus in His own words." What a wonderful focus! Each of these "I AM" statements reveals something amazing about the character of God in our Lord Jesus. And for us, this means another layer of how He loves us and invites us into His awesome love and goodness.

I know that leading a group adds layers of ministry to you. I pray that these rich studies, messages, and conversations will enrich your hearts with joy and faith.

Share it

Who has been a shepherd in your life? How was this helpful? What did you retain?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I hope you will have time to hear one another's stories of how God has used people (like you) to encourage and lead. This will also help us learn how to be God's servants as we shepherd people.

Study the Bible

Read through John 10:11-18. Jesus is continuing His conversation with the misguided religious leaders (John 9). In this chapter, Jesus contrasts Himself as a spiritual shepherd with the false leaders.

If you were discussing this passage with a friend over coffee, what could you discover about Jesus?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This passage has some wonderful truths about Jesus:

- He is a good shepherd and all that that means
- He lays down His life for us (5 times in this passage)
- He will not abandon us
- He protects us (I believe this alludes to our salvation and false teachers)
- He knows us and we know Him (personal relationship)
- He knows the Father
- He is bringing together people into one flock
- He is loved by the Father
- No one can stop Him from doing what He needs to do
- He has authority from the Father
- He follows His Father's commands

What does He say about the sheep?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- We need a shepherd
- Vulnerable
- We can know the shepherd
- We can know Jesus like He knows the Father
- We will one day be one flock with others with Jesus

What does He say about the Father?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- **The Father knows Jesus**
- **The Father loves Jesus for His obedience**
- **The Father gives authority to Jesus**

How should His sheep respond?

NOTES TO LEADERS: It is implied that the sheep should trust the shepherd, listen to His voice, join with other sheep, be thankful, and obey His commands.

How does this passage connect with John 8:24?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This may seem like an odd question. The purpose of this question is to remember the context: (1) That this is about spiritual protection / provision, and (2) That we are going to die in our sins if we don't have a shepherd.

Discuss Together

Our key point this week: "Because Jesus is a Good Shepherd, you can trust where He is leading you." Where else might we place our trust? What results? Why is trusting Jesus so difficult?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our tendency is to place our trust in our works for salvation, our minds to lead us, etc. Many people are trusting in a religious system for their future. Trust in anyone or anything other than Jesus will lead to us dying in our sins and living with the pleasure of oneness with God and one another.

What do we learn about Jesus and us from this passage? What should be the result of "relational knowledge" of Jesus?

NOTES TO LEADERS: See answer above about Jesus. "Relational knowledge of Jesus" (a phrase that Todd used Sunday) is a daily life of trusting Him that should yield fruit in our character, blessings for others, and eternal life beginning now.

How should knowing the Good Shepherd affect our attitudes and actions towards people in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: As we see those outside of the fold, not yet in Christ, we should have attitudes of compassion, prayer for and effort to help them come to know the Good Shepherd. A problem for us sheep is that we can get comfortable in the fold and neglect that there are so many "dying in their sins" both in our worlds and throughout the globe.

According to 1 John 3:16, how should "relational knowledge of Jesus" impact God's family?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Just as Jesus laid down His life for us, we are to lay it down for others in the family.

Apply It This Week

Ask God to help you trust Jesus to lead you this week.

Ask God to help you represent the Good Shepherd in your relational world.

NOTES TO LEADERS: Please encourage people to reflect on what we are learning from the "I AM" series, and ask the Lord to use it in how we live as His ambassadors in a lost world.

Grace to you,
Steve