

Jesus is the gate. Jesus is the good shepherd. He is not a hired hand. He is the good shepherd. He knows his sheep by name. He leads them. They hear his voice and follow him. Whoever enters the “pen” through him will be saved. He will provide for his sheep, and they will find pasture. They will find life...and life to the full. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

This is a simple list of the great promises from John 10:1-15.

“All the promises of God are ‘Yes!’ in Christ Jesus.” --2Corinthians 1:20

Warm it up

1. Have you ever heard God’s voice (audibly or otherwise – a nudge, a strong feeling, conviction, a whisper, etc.)? Share what happened, how you responded, and what came from it.

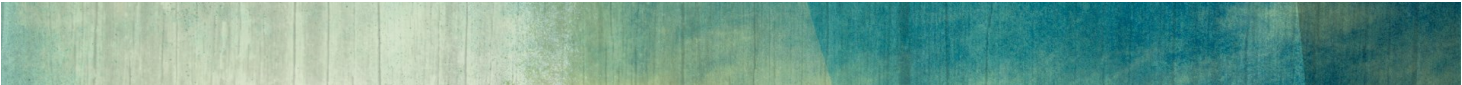
2. Share about a time/season of your life where you HAD a shepherd guiding you...OR...share about a time/season of your life where you look back and WISH YOU HAD a shepherd guiding you.

Talk it Over

Read John 10:1-15. Also read Psalm 23.

1. What do you think the significance is of Jesus being “the gate?”

2. Why is the statement “The Lord is my shepherd” so powerful to so many people? What images of peace and provision to it evoke?



3. Which do you think most people would rather have (when it comes to God): a shepherd, or a consultant? Why? Share a time when you were treating God as if He were a consultant working for you, not your shepherd.
 - A. Why do you think letting Jesus be your good shepherd (instead of your consultant) will give you the best opportunity to experience life “to the full?”

Work it Through

1. Describe some of the ways we often try to “earn” our way into the family of God.
 - A. Share an example of a way you’ve noticed yourself do that lately.

2. One of the ways God “guides us through” the valleys and trials and difficult seasons of life is by speaking to us. He calls out to us. He talks to us. He knows us. He call us by name and we hear his voice. What are some of the primary ways God speaks to us? (Tyler mentioned these in the weekend message.)
 - A. Share an example of a difficult season where you leaned heavily on Jesus as your good shepherd to guide you through.



3. In this passage, Jesus clearly distinguishes himself from false shepherds (hired hands), especially giving his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep. He also shows in other Scriptures (ie. Luke 15) that God's shepherding love is one that goes after us, pursuing us when we're lost, or have wandered away. Why is this an important attribute for a shepherd?
 - A. Share an example where you have needed Jesus to lead you back into the fold...back into the pen...back into the family.

4. How good are you at LETTING Jesus be your good shepherd? Explain.

5. In which area of your life (social, financial, social, sexual, emotional, vocational, etc.) is it most difficult for you to OBEY?

6. On a scale of 1-10, how THANKFUL are you for the places, things, and seasons God has brought your way recently? Explain why this is a strength or a challenge.

Pray it Through

Pray for one another!

