

# “I Am the Good Shepherd”

Scripture: John 10:1-18

## 1. Old Testament background of “I AM” (Exodus 3:14)

- “I AM” makes himself known to Moses – and visible in Jesus.
- Jesus makes 7 (+1) “I AM” declarations in John’s gospel.

## 2. Jesus says we are his “sheep”

The following traits are descriptive:

- Sheep have rectangular pupils – for near 360° vision
- Sheep are acute sense of smell – they smell trouble
- Sheep have high social intelligence – able to remember 50 faces
- Sheep have emotions-including empathy.
- Sheep are vulnerable “prey animals.”
- Sheep feel safer in close-knit groups (flocks).
- Sheep forced to live in isolation experience distress.

*“We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:3*

## 3. Sheep face several major threats (John 10:10-13)

- The desert landscape
- Thieves
- Wolves
- Hirelings who run from trouble

Modern examples of threats to God’s sheep includes false teaching.

\*Every sheep needs a shepherd – every soul needs a saviour.

## 4. Jesus declares, “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11, 14)

*“The Good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

\*Historical proof → Jesus’ crucifixion/resurrection/ascension.

## 5. Jesus delegates shepherding to pastors (John 21:15; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

*“Feed my sheep...” (John 21:15-17)*

*Be shepherds of God’s flock under your care. (1 Peter 5:1-4)*

John 10:10 → Jesus gives us life in its fulness ...including eternal life.

## Questions for individual or small group study

### OBSERVATION: (TEXT)

- Why does Jesus address the Pharisees in verse 1?
- Jesus uses the phrase “very truly” in verse 1 and 7... the original Greek term is “Amen” – which is closely related to “believe.”
- What options do shepherds have for entering the sheep pen?
- How would you describe sheep herding?
- We have two distinct “I AM” declarations in John 10; Jesus is both the gate to the sheep pen and the shepherd.
- What does Jesus mean by “I lay down my life for the sheep?”
- What are the common threats to the sheep?
- How does Jesus describe his relationship with his Father?

### INTERPRETATION: (THEOLOGY)

- Who is the ultimate thief?
- What does Jesus’ declaration, I am the Good Shepherd, tell us about his heart and his mission?
- What might Jesus mean by saying he has other sheep not of this sheep pen?
- Why does Jesus intend to lay down his life for the sheep?

### APPLICATION: (TODAY)

- What are some common threats to Christians today?
- In what way is a pastor a shepherd – can small group leaders also fit the definition of a shepherd?
- What does “life to the full” say to you and your life?
- Jesus doesn’t explicitly refer to the Holy Spirit in this passage – what might the role of the Holy Spirit be in shepherding?
- Read John 21:15-17 and 1 Peter 5:1-4

