



John 10:11-18

“I Am The Good Shepherd

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

The fifth I Am statement in the book of John is Jesus’ claim, “I Am the Good Shepherd.” Each of the I Am statements is a claim that Jesus is making about his divinity and reveals something specific about who God is and how he relates to humanity.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Why is it difficult for some to accept that God is good? What do Christians mean when we say that God is good?¹
2. Read Ezekiel 34:1-16. What characterizes a bad shepherd? Read John 10:11-18. What characterizes a good shepherd? How have you seen the care of Jesus as a good shepherd in your life?
3. Why might it be difficult to comprehend why a shepherd might give his life for his sheep? Why did Jesus give his life for his sheep? What motivated his self-sacrifice?
4. What does Jesus mean when he says he has “sheep that are not of this fold?”² Why is this significant? What characterizes the sheep that Jesus is talking about? How can we be sure that we are hearing from God and that we are not being led astray?
5. How can you better trust the leading of the Good Shepherd this week?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another for things drawn out of the discussion.

Commentary

1. C. S. Lewis wrote this of Aslan in *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe*:
"Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you." We understand that God, like Aslan, is not something to be tamed or controlled, but he is someone who is by his very nature good. This is why we must balance our understanding of God with both love and wrath.
2. Since Jesus was addressing the Pharisees and he was previously referring to the flock of ethnic Israel, the plainest reading of this text is that the Gentiles are the sheep to which Jesus is referring.