



WEEK 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- Share a story about a time you had to rely on someone's guidance/recommendation (restaurant, business, directions, decision, etc.). How did it turn out? What about that person made you trust their guidance/recommendation?

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read John 10:11-18, Psalm 23, and Ezekiel 34:-1-6 as a group.

- These passages draw a contrast between a faithful and unfaithful shepherd. Look back through each of these passages of Scripture. What are the characteristics of a good shepherd? A bad shepherd? Write down all your answers.
- Look over your group's list of good shepherd characteristics. How does the idea of Jesus as the Good Shepherd fit into your current perspective of God? In what ways should it change the way you think about God? How have you experienced one or more of the characteristics of the Good Shepherd in your own life? Share a story.
- In each of these passages, we (believers) are the sheep. Sheep that belong to Jesus hear His voice and follow wherever He leads. But Jesus is not the only voice we hear in our world today. There are many different things competing for our attention (personal desires, culture, relationships, etc.). In your own faith journey, what are some examples of other voices that have led you astray from following Jesus? Why do we often desire to follow the voices of "false shepherds" instead of Jesus? Think back over the last week, what helps you stay focused on His voice?

- Look at John 10:18 again. Jesus makes a specific point that He willingly chooses to lay down His life for His sheep. It is not the result of thieves or a wild animal. Instead, it's a willingness in His own strength to die for His sheep. In what ways does seeing Jesus as your Good Shepherd change the way you think about His crucifixion? Why?
- Reflect back over Psalm 23. How would you describe the current state of your spiritual life? What is keeping you from following His voice to green pastures, still waters, and the restoration of your soul? What is one specific area of your life where you need Jesus to be your Shepherd?
- Reflect back over Ezekiel 34:1-6. Ezekiel gives a warning to the leaders of Israel (shepherds) concerning their care of the sheep (Israel). These leaders were not caring for and serving the people. Neither were they going after those who had wandered off. What steps can you take to help serve and care for the believers at Northside? Who do you know who has wandered off? How can you pray for them?

CALLING

- The Good Shepherd calls us to follow His example and shepherd others. In what areas are you shepherding others (kids, work, serving at church, coaching, etc.)? How do you need to become a better shepherd in these areas? Spend time praying over these questions this week.
- Daily Devotions: Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for daily devotions.
- Memorize:
"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"
 John 10:14 (NIV)
- Further Study:
 - *Lead Like A Shepherd: The Secret to Leading Well* by Larry Osbourne
 - *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller
 - *Knowing Him: A 50-day Study in the Life of Christ* by Mark Edwards