

THE I AM STATEMENTS OF JESUS: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" John 10:11,14

Getting	Started	
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	etting Started Describe any experience you have had with sheep - on a farm, at a petting zoo, during the living nativity at church. How would you describe them? What is your impression of them?
2.	What about shepherds? If you've met a shepherd, what did you learn about this occupation? What makes it rewarding? Difficult?

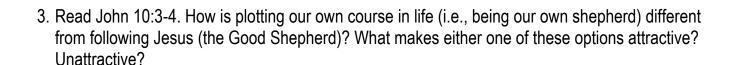
Digging Deeper

1. Read the below verses and discuss the needed character traits of being a shepherd. How are these similar to the person of the Good Shepherd, Jesus?

Exodus 3:1

1 Samuel 16:1, 17:34-36

2. Read Psalm 23:1-6 and John 10:11-13. What is the difference between a true shepherd (owner) and a hired hand (employee) who watches the sheep?



4. Read Jeremiah 50:6. Describe some characteristics of a "bad" shepherd (e.g., bad boss, friend, leader, teacher, coach, etc.). How does a bad shepherd work to convince others that he/she is a good shepherd? Describe a season in life when you put your confidence in the wrong kind of shepherd.

	5. Read the following verses and discuss how Jesus–the Good Shepherd–sets Himself apart from any other "shepherd" (e.g., people, fame, fortune, idols, opportunities, security, etc.) that we might follow.
	Romans 5:6-8
	John 10:17-18
	How closely are you following the Good Shepherd? What area of your life feels very close to Jesus? What area feels further away?
2.	We heard, "The Holy Spirit will only guide us if we are willing to open our hearts and minds without any reservations or attempts to control the outcome." In what way can you more willingly open your heart to Him? What reservations need to be laid aside in order to more fully give yourself over to Jesus?