

“I am the Good Shepherd”

Resources for Preparation beforehand:

- Who is Jesus/Who am I sheet
- Sheep fleece (please ask Ali for a bag)
- A means of playing the worship song and/or copies of words for everyone

Discussion Starter: Leader

Who have you known and looked up to as a good leader (perhaps a manager at work, a teacher at school, someone at church, a family member or maybe a champion of a cause)? What were they like, how did you respond to them and what difference has this made to your life?

God Reveals Himself:

Please read Ezekiel 34v11-16. How would these words have been heard and understood by a people in exile?

Experiential exploration: Please allow time for reflection.

Let each of the group have some sheep fleece to experience (be aware of lanolin allergies). How would a sheep experience a shepherd?

Background:

Reading: John chapter 10 v11-21

Questions:

1. If you connected with one of the services, what did you take away?
2. Why do you think Jesus adds “Good” to the title Shepherd, and who are the hired servants?
3. Jesus declares his welcome to the Gentiles in verse 16: how might this have been received by the Jewish leaders?
4. Jesus makes several amazing statements in this passage. How would you say these in your own words?
5. How can we live out this kind of love for our neighbours?
6. In what ways are you called to be a good shepherd in the contexts of the church and world?

Response & Worship:

Quietly read Psalm 23

There would have been a tension when Jesus describes himself as Shepherd. David was described as the Shepherd King, but in first century Israel shepherds were largely excluded from synagogues and were not seen as holy. We want our leaders to uphold great principles and make a positive difference in our communities. Please spend time praying for our church leaders, political leaders, those who influence our young people.

Consider who you shepherd or mentor and pray for them

Song suggestion:

The Lord's my Shepherd [The Lord's my Shepherd - Stuart Townend \[with lyrics\] - YouTube](#)

Take Aways:

- Encourage everyone to record something on their “Who is Jesus/Who am I” sheet and bring it to add to each week.
- For during the week:
 - Why not contact your Councillor or MP to encourage and thank them for what they do?
 - If the person that you mentioned in the first question is still alive, why not contact them and thank them for their influence in your life?
 - Ask a leader (eg teacher or minister) what you can pray for them

The Lord's My Shepherd by Stuart Townend

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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