



# GROWTH GROUP

## Good Shepherd Sunday

Week of 5/3/2020

Good Shepherd Sunday reminds us of the special relationship we enjoy with our Savior. Those whom he has called as his sheep readily recognize his care and concern. Even in suffering, his sheep experience his gracious care and follow him.

### Getting Started

Have you spent much time around sheep? What do you know about sheep? *Answers will vary.* How many shepherds in the Bible can you think of? *Jesus, Abel, Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Rachel, Laban, all of Jacob's twelve sons, Moses, David, the Christmas shepherds, and more.*

### Into the Word

Read **1 Peter 2:19-25.**

How does Peter identify Jesus as a shepherd? *Before we knew Christ, we were lost. We were wandering about as stray sheep with no one to care for us or look after us. But we now have a Shepherd. Sheep without a shepherd are doomed, vulnerable to any wild animals. But with Christ as our Shepherd we are safe. He is leading us toward our eternal home, always aware of our every condition.*

Read **Hebrews 13:20-21.**

What makes Jesus uniquely capable to be the one gate for the sheep? *Only one gate leads to life eternal because only Christ provided the blood of the eternal covenant.*

What is the result of us grasping the Easter miracle and what our Shepherd has done for us? *As we sheep stand looking back at the Easter miracle, we are empowered and equipped to follow our Shepherd wherever he may lead.*

Read **John 10:1-10.**

Who are the sheep, the shepherd, and the robbers? (verses 1-5) *The sheep are the believers. The shepherd is Jesus. The robbers are false teachers.*

What is the relationship of the shepherd to his sheep? *Because of the hours of tender care, the shepherd would know each of his sheep by name. The shepherd knows the distinct personality of each. The sheep, on the other hand, would recognize the shepherd's voice as he calls them by name. The sheep follow because they know the voice of the shepherd while wary of the strangers.*

What does Jesus mean by likening himself to a gate for the sheep? *Jesus himself is the gate through which the shepherds must enter to get to their sheep. He is the one through whom the sheep must go in order to find good pasture. All who are truly shepherds (pastors, staff minister) are those who believe in him as their Savior and guide their sheep only by means of his Word. True shepherds use the gate, preach Christ, and love the sheep. False shepherds refuse the gate, reject Christ, and destroy the flock.*

What does Jesus mean when he says that we will have life "to the full"? (verse 10) *We enjoy peace, joy, and contentment in knowing that we are God's children. All things work out for our good. We look forward to eternal life.*

### **Apply**

Have you been feeling dumb, defenseless, and dependent lately? If so, is that good or bad?

Agree or Disagree: Only Christians can live life to the full.

### **Around the Room**

Share your highs and lows for the week.

### **Pray**