

DISCUSSION GUIDE
NAMES OF JESUS: PART 4 – THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Text: JOHN 10:11-21

Warming Up

1. Have you ever been lost? Describe the circumstances and how you got “un” lost.
2. Have you ever had a job where your coworkers really didn’t care? How did you feel about being part of that workplace?

Digging In

Read Ezekiel 34:1-16

1. Ezekiel is told to prophecy against the shepherds of Israel. Who are the shepherds of Israel?
2. How did the flock get scattered? And where did the flock scatter to?
3. What does the Lord promise to do?

Read John 10:11-13

1. In Jesus saying, “I am the Good Shepherd...” what is he saying about himself in light of Ezekiel 34?
2. Pastor Craig stated that one of the questions John’s gospel is answering is, “Who is Jesus?” He cited John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14 to show the answer in another passage as well as here. Can you think of other scripture passages that address the question of “Who is Jesus?”
3. If the Lord is now gathering the sheep from among the nations how is that happening and what does it look like for the Lord to pasture “them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.” (Ezekiel 34:14)

Read John 10:14-21

1. Jesus said that the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. How does that contrast to the “shepherds of Israel” and the hirelings? Does the church experience the same kind of scattering from today’s “shepherds” or “hirelings”?
2. What does Jesus mean by saying the Father loves him because he lays down his life only to take it up again? How did he lay his life down without someone taking his life?
3. Notice the differing responses from Jesus’ listeners. What’s your response to what Jesus says here?
4. Who are the “other sheep” that Jesus is talking about? Pastor Craig noted the fractured state of the church. He said maybe we could at least bless other churches who are different from us. What do you think? How could we do that?

Sending Out

The Good Shepherd is still seeking those who are lost and scattered. How can we be part of the Good Shepherd’s call to the lost?

Closing

May we be a blessing to those who are not part of our “flock.” May we call those who need the Good Shepherd to listen for His voice. And may we bless those who are calling others to the Good Shepherd in ways different than how we do it.

Close in Prayer