



Sermon Discussion Guide

March 8th, 2026 | John 10:11-21 | Rev. Geoff Murray

Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am

Summary

This week we had Rev. Geoff Murray, one of our ministry partners, from Scotland. Unpacking John 10:11-21 as Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, filling a role that had long been vacant in Israel because previous shepherds had failed to care for God's people. Echoing the promise in Book of Ezekiel that God himself would shepherd his people, Jesus' statement "I am the good shepherd" is a bold claim to be God. Though he is holy and exalted, he willingly comes close to his people and does the hard work of caring for them. Unlike a hired hand who abandons the sheep when danger comes, the Good Shepherd loves his sheep and is willing to risk, and even give, his life for them. Even though Jesus is holy, good, and lofty he is also in the midst of his people much like the grueling work that shepherding a flock Jesus is with his sheep, caring for them and protecting them. Jesus' mission as the Good Shepherd is first to lay down his life for his sheep, referring to his sacrificial death and resurrection. His death was not merely a tragic injustice but a willing act done under his own authority in order to rescue and forgive sinners. Because he rose again, believers follow a living Shepherd who walks with them through both peaceful and difficult seasons of life. Even in dark times when his goodness is hard to see, he remains present and committed to his sheep. The Good Shepherd also gathers his sheep, calling people from many places into his fold. This means Jesus continues to bring new people to himself, giving believers confidence to share the hope they have with others. Though sheep may look the same to us, Jesus knows each of his followers personally—their personalities, struggles, and needs. The key question is whether we truly know the Good Shepherd and recognize and respond to his voice.

Discussion Questions (Read John 10:11-21):

- **Icebreaker Question:** If you had to take care of an animal (not a pet) for a week (sheep included), what animal would you choose and why?

The Character Description

- The sermon connected Jesus' words to God's promise to shepherd his people in Book of Ezekiel. Why is it significant that Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd?
- In what ways are people similar to sheep that wander away from the shepherd?
- Have there been moments in your life when it was hard to trust in Jesus' goodness? What helped you during those times?

The Job Description

- Why is it important that Jesus says he lays down his life willingly and has authority to take it up again?
- The passage says Jesus knows his sheep. What do you think it means that Jesus knows us personally?
- Jesus says he has other sheep to bring into the fold. What does this teach us about God's heart for people who do not yet know him?
- What are some practical ways we can listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd in our lives today?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- After thinking about this passage, how would you answer the question: "Is Jesus truly my Shepherd?"

If the answer is yes, then please pray that you would continue to listen to his voice as he calls you to himself more and more each day. If the answer is no, pray to the Lord and ask him to lead you in next steps such as talking with other believers about it.