

Discussion and Reflection Questions
Lent 5 - I AM the Good Shepherd - 22nd of February 2026

Read: John 10:11-16

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Questions

1. What does the word “good” add to our understanding of Jesus’ leadership?
2. Jesus contrasts the shepherd with the hired hand. What are the key differences between them, and what might “hired hand” leadership look like today?
3. The hired hand runs away when danger comes. What fears or pressures might cause us to act like hired hands rather than shepherds?
4. Jesus compares his relationship with the sheep to his relationship with the Father. What does this reveal about the depth of intimacy Jesus invites us into?
5. Jesus speaks of “other sheep that do not belong to this fold.” Who do you think these “other sheep” might represent, and what does this say about God’s mission?
6. How does the image of the shepherd laying down his life prepare us for Holy Week?
7. What does it look like for Christians to reflect the character of the Good Shepherd in their own lives and communities?

Prayer

Good Shepherd,
guide us beside still waters and restore our souls.
Teach us humility and tenderness,
that we may care for others as you care for us.
Hold us as we walk through the valleys of fear,
and call us into one flock of your love.
Lead us toward goodness and mercy all our days.
For to you all honour and blessing are due,
now and for ever. Amen.