



Love always invites another person to experience that which is most worthy and soul-satisfying. Every day God invites us to experience and be captivated by what true love is. He invites us to never settle for less. He invites us to receive his love as the good shepherd and invite others to know this life and love.

REFLECT (10 Minutes)

How did you find the sermon this week? Was there anything new or interesting that stuck with you from the teaching?

Dig Deeper (20 Minutes)

When you first think of a shepherd, what comes to mind? What comes to mind when you think of sheep? What strikes you as being most significant about the shepherd's relationship to the sheep in John 10:2-5?

Not only was God the Shepherd of his people Israel, but he also gave the care of his people over to kings, prophets, and priests. These leaders in the Old Testament were often called the shepherds of Israel. According to Ezekiel 34:1-10, how can you identify a bad shepherd? What are some characteristics of bad shepherds in our day?

Throughout Scripture, God describes Himself as the Shepherd of His people. Choose a few scriptures to reflect on what they say about God as Shepherd: Psalm 23, Psalm 78:52-53, Isaiah 40:9-11, Matthew 9:36, Hebrews 13:20-21.

1. What do these scriptures say about what God is like?
2. What do these verses say about what it means to be human?
3. What do these Scriptures invite us into? Or, How do these scriptures speak specifically to something that is going on in your life right now?
 - a. (You can ask follow up questions to what is going on in people's lives here.)

RESPOND (10-15 Minutes)

The Good Shepherd, Jesus, came that His sheep might have life and have it abundantly. But, we often fail to experience the "life" that Jesus came to give us.

1. Why do you think that is?
2. Take time to define/articulate as a group what having life abundantly ought to look like. (Perhaps, open to John 10 and interact with that passage here.)

This Sunday, Pastor Darren said that one of the ways LOVE DOES is LOVE invites. He said, those who experience the Love and Life of the Good Shepherd become those who invite others to see and taste this. What do you think about this? How does this make you feel? Why or why not do you move to invite people?

PRAYER and Mutual Encouragement (10-15 Minutes)

Take some time to pray for one another. Confess areas where you would like to be in closer relationship with the Good Shepherd. Pray over these areas and that we would be the people of God who carry with us this good news.

Identify someone in each person's life who they are seeking to love and invite. Take some time to pray for those individuals and or families.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.