



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of March 30, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

I Am the Good Shepherd

John 10:11–14 (emphasis added)

¹¹**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴**I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,** ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

- **Jesus reveals that He is the Good Shepherd. Read these Old Testament verses below regarding the shepherds of Israel and the God's description of Himself as a Shepherd. What do you notice?**

Ezekiel 34:1-2, 4-5. Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds... Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?... The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered.

Isaiah 40:11. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

- **How does Jesus describe the identity of the Good Shepherd? What does He do? (11, 14)**
- **Jesus contrasts Himself with the hired hand. How are they different? (12-13)**

- **According to Jesus, the mutual knowing between Jesus and His sheep (14) is a reflection of the mutual knowing between Jesus and His Father (15). What does this tell us about the relationship Jesus has with us, His sheep?**
- **When Jesus mentions sheep from another fold (16), who is He talking about? For more insight, read [Isaiah 56:8](#).**

"The Palestinian shepherd did not drive his sheep-- he went before them, he led his sheep...a shepherd would typically tend his sheep for years, calling each of his flock by name. It was a highly personal occupation. The very existence of a sheep depended on the shepherd and his twenty-four-hour-a-day care. That is why there was no sharper image of tragedy for the ancient mind than sheep without a shepherd."
--R. Kent Hughes

We see in this passage that Jesus' love for us, His sheep, is unfathomable. He sees us in all of our sin and helplessness, and instead of abandoning us, it is our helplessness that draws Him near, protecting us and laying His life down for the sheep.

- **Our Good Shepherd's heart is drawn to the weak & helpless. Does this challenge or encourage you?**
- **Consider a way that you may be trying to protect yourself or listen to other voices (maybe your own) to find your way. We are often tempted in this way (afraid of getting hurt, thinking our own effort will get us through). How does Jesus help us when we admit our helplessness? What do we receive?**

When Jesus says He knows us and we know Him, it is not just a head knowledge (14). Rather, it is a deep, personal understanding and commitment toward the other. So when God says He knows us (cf. [Psalm 139](#)), He is graciously committed to us.

- **How might Jesus' identity as the Good Shepherd, who deeply knows and loves you, strengthen you against the accusations of the evil one?**

Jesus promises He is the Good Shepherd who says, "I have called you by name, you are mine" ([Isaiah 43:1](#)). A Good Shepherd who lays down His life for you, forgiving your sins and saying, "It is finished!" ([John 19:30](#)). A Good Shepherd who loves you, saved you, calls you His own, and invites you to turn away from voices that lead to death, and follow His voice.

- Consider a way you are helpless (*a longing that hasn't been met, a relationship that seems broken, a place you feel uncertain what to do*). How does trusting the Lord is your Shepherd comfort you in your need?

Pray together in response to God's Word.

Psalm 23. A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Stories from the Church: *Jesus Makes Himself Known*

Each Sunday in Lent we will hear testimonies of how Jesus is faithfully revealing Himself to His people.



This week, we heard from Tucker Tetterton in worship.

Good morning church, my name is Tucker Tetterton. I have attended West End for 18 years. Now for context, I am also 18 years old. That means that I haven't ever had a conscious

thought on the earth without the gospel being some part of my life. That is a beautiful thing. As a young kid, I didn't fully understand the gospel but my younger self would

probably still say he was a Christian solely because he went to church. If I had to point to a moment where the gospel hit me for the first time, it would be my first year going to the youth retreat camp called the Edge. The Edge did something called commitment night where all the campers went outside and reflected on their relationship with God. They told us to write on an index card whether we were not ready to accept God, were ready to accept God, or already have accepted God. In my first year at this camp, I was about to write "already accepted God" because I went to church. But, I decided to put "ready to accept God" for some reason. When we all unified back in the chapel, the speaker took the people who said they were ready to accept God into a classroom on the campus (we were at Covenant College).

In that classroom, were the kids who said they were ready to accept God for the first time and some of our youth leaders who came with us. What stood out to me was when the guest speaker talked about God's relationship. It had never occurred to me before just how personal the relationship between God and his people is. I had always seen God as this far-away being who lived in a church on Sundays. Also, the speaker discussed the level of sacrifice Jesus made for his people. As a rising 5th grader, I hadn't thought about the extent Jesus went to save us. For me, giving up small things in my life was hard nevertheless my entire life. Hearing again what Jesus had to go through because he loved us struck me. At that moment it all hit me and I for the first time grasped the gospel and how beautiful it was. Not only did the speaker at the Edge that year have a profound impact on my faith, but so did my two youth leaders Chris Hearn and Tim Cornwell. The way they prayed for me and encouraged me in my faith on that trip helped me have the faith I do today. Even to this day, you can see Chris Hearn loving those in this church community just as he did for me at the Edge.

However, as I went through middle and high school, my faith wasn't perfect and unwavering. I would go through my life and get caught in the cycle of not thinking about God until Sunday morning and then going straight back into the week. So, God continued to make me turn to him. When my best friend had to deal with cancer and ensuing surgeries, God taught me how to pray and trust him more so that he would take care of my friend and protect him. I had no other hope but to trust God.

God has given me people in my life to keep me on track. My friends in this community hold me accountable when my faith begins to falter. That again is God providing for

me. When Tim Cornwell left our church to pursue his call to Spain, God provided Isaiah and Abby Thomas who have been an absolute blessing in my life. Both have helped me navigate high school in a way that keeps me focused on God. It is examples like these that show God's unwavering devotion to all of us. When we forget him and stop paying attention to him, he still pursues us. Jesus wants a relationship with us no matter what we try to do to run from him.

I think Psalm 139: 1-8 shows this idea clearly.

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern
my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down and are
acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
 behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is high; I cannot attain it.*

*Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*

These verses show how God pursues and knows all of us. His constant pursuit of me has strengthened my faith. Verses 7 and 8 drive home the point that Jesus is everywhere, and we can't hide. They remind us all that the only dependable and consistent hope we have in life is our hope in Jesus. Thank you.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit
www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Hear sermon audio for West End Presbyterian Church RVA
on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)

Questions? Worship Arts Director, Becca Wethered,
becca@wepc.org

Worship Study Guides during Lent 2025 are coordinated with
the I AM Statements from the Gospel of John sermon series
and the Lent 2025 Churchwide Devotional

