

Bible Studies in the “I Am” sayings of Jesus in John’s Gospel

Study 5: I am the Good Shepherd

For discussion: What do you know about looking after sheep? What do you know about shepherd?

READ John 10:11-18

1. Is there anything that strikes or puzzles you? Discuss ...
2. Why do you think Jesus chose the image of a shepherd to explain who he is?
3. The image of a shepherd has a strong Old Testament background ...
 - a. What do the following passages tell us about God and his people: Psalm 23:1; 28:9[80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10?
 - b. What light does the above shed on Jesus’ claim to be the shepherd of God’s people?
4. Not all shepherds are good ...
 - a. What do the following passages tell us about the leaders of God’s people: 2 Samuel 5:2 (and 1 Chronicles 11:2); 1 Kings 22:17 (and 2 Chronicles 18:16); Isaiah 55:10-11; Jeremiah 10:21; Jeremiah 23:1-4; 50:6; Zechariah 10:3?
 - b. Against the above background, how do you think Ezekiel 34:1-24 relates to Jesus’ claim to be the *good* shepherd? Who are the bad shepherds?
5. What do the following passages tell us about who is shepherding us now, and what the future holds for us: Ephesians 4:11; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:1-4; Revelation 7:17?
6. What does it mean to you that Jesus knows his sheep, and they know him (verse 14)?
7. What do you think Jesus means when he says he has other sheep not of this fold who must be brought in (verse 16)? What are the implications of this for the church today?