

# The Good Shepherd

## Precept® Discovery Study

### First things first...

Jesus often taught in a parable, a true-to-life story that makes an important point. Each parable was something its hearers would relate to from their context of life.

Because sheep and shepherds were common in Jesus' environment, He often used these images.

#### OBSERVE

- 1 Circle references to the good shepherd.
- 2 Draw a box around references to the hired hand.
- 3 What's the contrast between these two kinds of shepherds?
- 4 Underline Father.

#### APPLY

- 5 What does the hired hand represent? What is he like?
- 6 Who is the good shepherd? What do you learn about Him?

7 Who are the sheep? What will happen to them?

8 What have you learned from these verses about the Father and the good shepherd?

9 John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." How does Jesus model this kind of love for us in our passage?

#### WRAP IT UP:

Sheep and shepherds may not be common to our experience, something we see and live with each day, but we do understand good and bad.

We also know the concept of father, even if we didn't have a good one or never had one.

Jesus blends the two concepts into a profound teaching that should encourage us despite hard circumstances. We have a good shepherd whose charge is from the Father in heaven, and They both love us.

## John 10:11-18 ESV

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- 11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 12** “He 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.
- 13** “He 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,
- 15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- 16** “And 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.
- 17** “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.
- 18** “No 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.”

**To discover more about the Precept® Bible Study Method, sign up for a training workshop! The Essentials of the Precept Bible Study Method class is the perfect place to begin—learn more at [training.precept.org!](https://training.precept.org/)**

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