

TITLE AND NUMBER: 25. The Good Shepherd



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 10:11-15

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. (v11-15)

LOOKING FURTHER: Ezekiel 34.1-24, Psalm 23

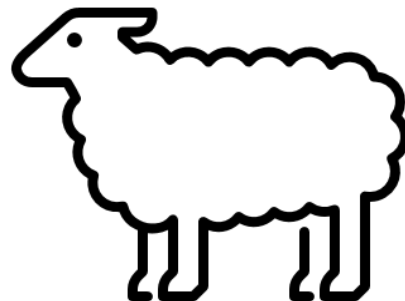
What does this Bible passage tell us?

In Jesus' time, sheep were very valuable. Good shepherds guarded them with their lives and protected them from danger.

In verse 12 Jesus says that He is our 'Good Shepherd'. The people would have understood that just as a shepherd protects and takes care of his sheep as they follow him, so Jesus would take care of those who decide to follow Him.

Verse 15 says '...and I lay down my life for the sheep'. Jesus was saying that because of His love for us, He would be prepared to die for us. How amazing to think that Jesus loves all of us that much!

In this passage, Jesus was looking ahead to the cross where He would die for us. He died and rose again and invites us to know Him as our Good Shepherd. Jesus will lead us in the right ways and is with us in challenging times. He sees us as being of great worth, as a shepherd sees his sheep.



Reflections:

- In verse 14 Jesus said: 'I know my own and my own know me'. Do you know God? Have you experienced Him in your life? If not, ask Him to come to you now. Like the shepherd, He loves you and desires that relationship with you.
- Do you recognise God's care over your life? Looking back over the last year, what can you give thanks to God for, even in the difficult times we have all had? Remembering the love that Jesus expressed for us in this passage, what concerns do you have which you can confidently pray to Him about? Pray now, asking Him to lift those issues from your shoulders.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

