

Lent 2024 – I AM: the Good Shepherd  
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### Reflection & Discussion Questions

#### **The I AM statements are the self portrait of Jesus**

When we understand the true picture of Jesus, it changes everything about us.

\*What picture of Jesus have you at one time believed but since found to be untrue or unhelpful?

#### **Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd”**

Read and discuss John 10:11-18(NIV)

*<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*

*<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*

\*What does this passage say about the picture Jesus paints of himself?

\*How would a good shepherd contrast with a hired hand or a bad shepherd?

\*Where do you turn for protection, comfort, guidance, etc instead of the good shepherd?

\*What are the implications of verses 14-15?

#### **We are the sheep**

We need direction from our shepherd.

\*When do you most often struggle to remember that you are the sheep?

\*Where has he cared for you, guided you or provided for you recently?

\*What does listening to his voice look like for you?

#### **The correct painting of Jesus shows him as the shepherd that dies for the sheep**

He becomes the sacrifice for us.

\*How can we keep this sacrifice fresh in our hearts and minds?

\*How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to lean into the truth that Jesus is the good shepherd?