



I Am The Good Shepherd | James Powell | 03.24.2024
Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

What is one small, silly, and insignificant thing that made you smile or laugh last week?

What's your favorite Easter tradition?

What is a "shepherd" to you? Who are they? What do they do?

GROW

Welcome to week four of our "I Am" series at Red Rocks. As we continue to walk through the seven "I am" statements made by Jesus, we aim to discover the characteristics and attributes of God as we look at the life of Jesus. Here at Red Rocks Church, we are on a mission to help people Know God, Live on Purpose, and Go Change the World. As we gain a better understanding of God's heart for our lives, our hope is that it equips and empowers us to be continuously transformed more and more into the image of Jesus as we live out the kind of lives He has for us.

This week, Pastor James taught the fourth "I Am" statement in the Gospel of John: *I Am The Good Shepherd*. Throughout scripture, we can observe God's people scattered, aimlessly

wandering without a loving shepherd. Often, we place our faith in things that are incapable of sustaining or leading us through life's darkest moments. While many shepherds offer basic care, provision, and protection, Jesus stands alone as the *Good Shepherd*. Through His sacrifice, Jesus demonstrated the greatest expression of love the world has ever seen (John 15:13), inviting us to follow Him through even the most challenging times as we experience the fullness of life. Despite feelings of inadequacy, scarcity, or hopelessness, His radical love and gentle guidance remind us that there is no price He won't pay or obstacle He can't overcome while redeeming our story.

Read John 10:10-15, John 15:10-16

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's message?

How have the first four "I Am" statements, (Bread of life, Light of the world, Door, Good Shepherd) changed your perspective of God since we started this series?

What does it mean to you that Jesus "chose you," calls you a "friend," and proclaims that you are a "friend worthy of laying down his life?" What feelings, experiences, or beliefs make it difficult to receive this as part of your identity?

What else stuck out to you while reading these passages?

M O V E

James highlighted two crucial aspects to consider in our perception of Jesus as the Good Shepherd: perspective and performance. Often, when we feel a lack in our lives—whether it's peace, provision, or protection—we become disheartened and begin questioning if God truly sees us. However, the issue may not be with what's lacking but rather with where we're looking. God rarely shows up the way we think He will. Could it be the Lord is blessing you in hidden, yet profound ways, especially in areas where we feel like we're lacking? The second thing to consider is our inclination to perform. In a world where our value is often tied to our productivity, it's natural to strive harder when our obedience doesn't yield the results we want. Yet, we serve a God who desires nothing from us but everything for us. There's nothing we can do to earn or

deserve His love because He already paid the ultimate price for our lives. For some of us, the best thing we can do in this season is to stop performing to earn God's love. David spoke of this in Psalm 23. We are invited to dwell in the Lord's presence forever, experiencing his guidance, provision, and protection in miraculous ways.

Read Psalm 23:1-6

What aspect of your life do you feel like you're lacking? Is it possible that God could be providing, protecting, blessing, or transforming you in a different area of your life? Explain.

What stuck out to you in Psalm 23?

Take a moment to reflect on your relationship with God from the beginning of January to now. Would it be more accurate to describe that relationship as a series of negotiations for your benefit, or a transformative story of sacrifice and surrender that glorifies His name? Explain.

What would it look like for you to "dwell in the house of the Lord?"

P R A Y

God, thank you for being a Good Shepherd. As we walk through this week, would you reveal more of your heart and will for our lives. Help us learn to fall more in love with the Provider than the provision. As you continue to move in and through us, would you put someone on our hearts to invite to church next weekend that desperately needs to experience your unfailing love for them.