



The Good Shepherd | Week 4 | Ethan Matott | 3.23-24

Weekly Study

SHARE

We are onto week 4 of our **"I AM"** series here at Red Rocks. Last week, we learned that Jesus is **"the door** of the sheep." We need Jesus to be this for us because, not only is he the way to life after death, he is the source of abundant life for us *today*. He stands guard as the shepherd, protecting his sheep. At the same time, he is our loving savior who opens the door to every individual on Earth, calling each one of us by name.

- ☐ Has learning more about Jesus the past few weeks made you feel closer to him? If so or if not, talk about where you are in your relationship with Jesus.
- ☐ Share any thoughts you have about the message last week. What part has stayed with you? Are there any questions you have?

GROW

Read John 10:10-15

This week, Ethan walked us through Jesus' fourth statement: "I am the **good shepherd**." Jesus likens us to sheep because we are prone to wander and need to be led. We live in an influential world. Its many cultures, powerful, charismatic people, politics, even our own thoughts and feelings can take hold of our attention and steer our choices. But they serve as bad shepherds for our lives. They can lead us into isolation, apathy, fear, scarcity, anger, and division - to name a few - because they don't consider our best interest like a good shepherd does. The world burdens you, it weighs on our soul. Jesus wants to lift the world off of our shoulders. Instead, he promises that his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

- ☐ What are you taking in and who are you surrounded by that is leading you?
- ☐ What from the world is taking up most of your attention? What of those things are weighing you down?
- ☐ Are you often your own shepherd? What is different about when you go to God for guidance before your own logic or feelings?
- ☐ Are you leaving room for enough quiet in your life to hear God? Are you intentionally trying to listen for God's guidance in your life?

Read Psalm 23

We know in this world we will have trouble, but Jesus tells us to take heart! He has already overcome the world (John 16:33). With Jesus as our shepherd, we lack nothing because he provides and sustains us. When we are weak, he is strong. He walks us through suffering and finds us still waters and green pastures within darkness. Even when we are surrounded in circumstances that feel out of control, we know that *he* is in control. And if we let him lead us, he brings goodness and mercy. His love overflows when our cup feels constantly emptied by hardship in life. He restores our soul.

- ☐ What from Psalm 23 do you need to hold with you as a reminder that the Lord is your shepherd this week?
- ☐ Think back to a dark valley, or scary situation in life, in what way did Jesus show up for you during that time?
- ☐ What does it mean for you when you read, "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever"? (Psalm 23:6b)
- ☐ God promises to protect us. What boundaries has God given you that have been good for you? How have you felt about correction or guidance from God?

MOVE

Read John 10:14-15

Jesus sees the whole of who we are. He tells us that he knows us, "just as the father knows me and I know the father," (John 10:15). He wants to walk with us in relationship, and for us to know him too. Jesus is not only the good shepherd, he is a friend who loves you. And he proved that love was unconditional on the cross. He kept his promise and keeps his promise each day to be with you always. God also shows his love through others. He designed us for community. He calls us to be more than just shepherded. He empowers us to serve and tend to

each other. He has a purpose for our lives and calls us to walk in that purpose.

Read 1 Peter 5:2-4

As followers of Jesus now we have the opportunity to lead and shepherd as well. As we follow Jesus and learn his ways it begins to shape and form us into the original design he created us to be in himself. We become the light of the world with Jesus and as he works through our lives we are able to lead, and shepherd others in the faith as well but also showing people who may be far from God a little bit more of his love through the way that we love.

- ☐ **What are you doing to care for God's people? What about people you dislike or disagree with? How can you find an eagerness to serve those people?**
- ☐ **How does it feel when you serve and care for others? What have you learned about yourself through serving?**
- ☐ **Who is a person in your life that has led you to Jesus? How can you be the same example to others?**
- ☐ **What do you feel like God is calling you to do in your life right now? How can you answer that call?**

P R A Y

Share prayer requests and write down to be praying for each other this week.

Have a few people pray aloud over the group.