I am the Good Shepherd

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Introduction:

- Wolves, robbers, and thieves
- I know you are, but what am I?

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" **John 10:11**

A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. **John 10:12**

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber… The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." **John 10:1, 10**

Four qualities of the Good Shepherd

1. Jesus <u>guides</u>

After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice. **John 10:4-5**

2. Jesus <u>provides</u>

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. **Psalm 23:1-3**

3. Jesus <u>corrects</u>

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. **Hebrews 12:11**

4. Jesus <u>protects</u>

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Psalm 23:4**

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. **Luke 15:4-6**

Next Steps:

☐ By faith, I accept Jesus as my savior and commit to follow him as my shepherd

☐ I admit that I haven't been following the Good Shepherd as I should; I commit to start today

☐ I have a hard time hearing the Good Shepherd's voice; I commit to spending more time with Jesus (prayer and Bible reading)

☐ _____