

# JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING FOR JESUS / SERIES: GOD IS I AM

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 23; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4; Revelation 7:17

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 10:10-11

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

## BIG IDEAS

- The Good Shepherd knows the sheep.
- The Good Shepherd pursues the sheep.
- The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 10:11-18

## TRANSFORM: LIVING FOR JESUS

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- The 8 different "I AM" statements that Jesus uses in the gospel of John.
- We will always be dissatisfied when we search for joy and life apart from Jesus.
- The value and worth of our lives is found in Jesus alone



### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God would make a way for our relationship with Him through Jesus.
- Convicted of the lies that they are tempted to believe about Jesus.
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire gospel of John.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Practice sharing the truth about who Jesus is using the 'I Am' statements from Scripture



### Every student should want to...

- Grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.
- Abide in Christ deeper than they ever have before.
- Be known for how they point people to Jesus with their lives

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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## JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 10:10-11**

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

**The sheep have an adversary.**

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy."*

- The thief referred to in this verse is Satan. Satan is the enemy of God and God's people. God's people have an adversary, Satan. He works against them to draw them away from God and to tempt them to sin against Him.
- Just like real sheep have predators from which they must be protected, God's people have an enemy that they must be protected from. This enemy comes to steal them away and to kill them. He works to destroy them and to kill them.

**The Good Shepherd gives life to the sheep.**

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives all life to all things. He gives life to His people by rescuing them from their sinful state. He is the light that shines on the darkness of this world and makes it possible for mankind to be saved.
- The Good Shepherd gives abundant life. Those who are followers of Christ no longer walk in the deadness of their sin, but they are set free to live for Jesus. They are made new and receive new hearts that understand and desire to live for God.

**The Good Shepherd gives up His own life to give life to the sheep.**

*"The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

- We know what is good because God is good. In Jesus' statement on Himself as the Good Shepherd, He taught what it means to be a good shepherd. A good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. A good shepherd is willing to fight off predators and anything trying to steal and kill his sheep.
- Jesus willingly gave up His life for His sheep. He came to earth to do this very thing. He was born to die that His sheep might live. It is His inherent goodness and righteousness that makes life possible for His sheep. He is the perfect example of a Good Shepherd. Jesus laid down His own life for His sheep that they might have life.

**BIG IDEA #1: THE GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS THE SHEEP.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Jesus' "I AM" statement in John 10:15 reveals that He knows His sheep. He knows His people and is not a God who is unaware or unfamiliar with them. Unlike false gods who are inanimate and unable to know their followers, Jesus has a personal knowledge and understanding of His people. He is always aware of His people at all times. He knows those who believe in and trust Him. His knowledge of them is great and intimate. He knows us better than we even know ourselves. He knows our thoughts before we even speak them. He understands our greatest desires and can relate to us in a very real way. In Jesus' time on earth, it was important that shepherds know their sheep. Unless they knew their sheep, they could not properly care for them. If one of them went missing, they would not know it unless they knew their sheep. Jesus taught His followers of His goodness as their Shepherd as He taught them of His own knowledge of them. Through His miracles, His healing of them, and His understanding of each one of them, He revealed that He is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep personally.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How do false ideas about Jesus or ourselves prevent us from really believing that He knows us and understands us?**

1 Corinthians 8:3 teaches us that if we love God and know Him, then we are known by Him. This means that He knows us well before we know Him. Often, it is our self-absorption that keeps us from truly believing that Jesus knows us. John 8:44 reminds us that Satan is the father of lies and seeks to convince us that Jesus not only doesn't know us, but doesn't care to know us.

**What comfort does it bring you knowing that Jesus knows you better than you even know yourself? How does this help you live for Him?**

In Nahum 1:7, the prophet reminds us that God knows those who take refuge in Him. This brings us comfort because it reminds us that even in our darkest times, God is aware. Matthew 10:30 also reminds us of His care for us and just how intimately He knows us.

**[ THIS ]**

Not only does Jesus know us, but His sheep know Him. Part of having a deeply personal relationship with anyone is being known and knowing. When we have deeply intimate earthly relationships, it is because we have a personal knowledge of another person and they have a personal knowledge of us. The same is true of our relationship with Jesus. Though Jesus can know us intimately without needing us to know Him, we cannot know Him without His knowing us. He does not withhold any good thing from those who love Him, and He is the very best thing; therefore, those who seek Him, will find Him. Those who desire to know Him and be filled with a deep knowledge of Him will have that desire fulfilled.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**When you think about your relationship with Jesus, are there ways you have become lazy in it?**

James 4:5 shows us that God is jealous of our devotion to other things. It's easy to become complacent in our relationship with Jesus, but Jeremiah 33:3 spurs us on to continue seeking out the great truths that are hidden in Christ.

<sup>1</sup> John 10:15: Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him. Jesus shows that just as sheep know the voice of their earthly shepherd, His people know His voice and recognize Him.

**BIG IDEA #2: THE GOOD SHEPHERD PURSUES THE SHEEP.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

No one seeks after God on their own. In our own sinful state, we do not naturally pursue Jesus. Our sin nature leads us to pursue the things of this world. Because of this, we wander far from God. Isaiah 53:6 says that we have all gone astray like sheep. Each one of us turns to our own way. This means that there is no one who turns to God and seeks His salvation. We sit with the iniquity of our sin on our heads leading lives that lead us to eternal death. All of us are in need of rescue. Jesus, the Good Shepherd pursues us. He does not leave us in our sinful state. He left Heaven and came down to us. He seeks after us and pursues us in our sinful state. He didn't wait for us to recognize our sinfulness or to repent of our rejection of Him. He came though we reject Him. He came in spite of our sinfulness. He is our Good Shepherd.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How does the Good Shepherd's pursuit of you show you the goodness of God?**

Romans 2:4 shows us that God's goodness is revealed in His patience in drawing sinners to Himself. That He sent Jesus to the world reveals His kindness and goodness to the world. James 1:17 and Psalm 145:9 remind us that all good things come from God and this is particularly evident in the salvation He offers through the Good Shepherd.

**[ THIS ]**

In John 10:16, Jesus taught His followers about His pursuit of lost people. Jesus came to the world to seek and save sinners. He came first to the Jews and then the Gentiles, which is who Jesus means when He talks about the sheep who are not of this fold. Jesus came to pursue all lost people in the world and all those who would have saving faith in Him. The salvation He offers is to all those who believe in Him as their Savior. Jesus' "I AM" statements are truths about God and this particular one reveals the important truth that salvation was for the Jew and Gentile. The Shepherd's pursuit of His sheep wasn't limited to one people group. He intended to seek out all of His sheep in all of the world. Because of this pursuit, we hear the Gospel and can have saving faith in the Good Shepherd.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How does Jesus' pursuit of sheep in all of the world help you understand the value of every lost person?**

Luke 15:4 gives us the story of the shepherd leaving the flock to find the one lost sheep. When we think about Jesus' pursuit of all lost people, we understand that His death was for all lost people. James 5:20 also helps us understand the value of a person's soul.

**How does Jesus' pursuit of lost people influence your own ideas of reaching lost people in your life?**

If we are part of Jesus' fold, we should care about what He cares about. Jesus' pursuit of every lost person helps us understand the value that they have and how deeply Jesus cares for them. Matthew 28:19 gives us the command to go into the world to reach lost people with the gospel. Acts 1:8 and Romans 10:14-15 also help us understand the importance of our going out to seek lost people that we might tell them the good news of Jesus.

3. John 10:15: A good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. Jesus willingly lay down His life for His people because He is the Good Shepherd.

**BIG IDEA #3: THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In John 10:12-13, we see a picture of bad shepherds who do not care about their sheep. Sheep could not protect themselves. Without natural defenses, they rely upon their shepherd to protect them and defend them from predators. A good shepherd stands guard and defends them against wild animals and other predators. In these verses, we see a picture of shepherds who flee instead of defending their sheep. These shepherds do not care for their sheep, nor do they sacrifice for them. They are like false teachers or idols who do not and cannot truly offer salvation to people. They may seem like shepherds, but in truth, when faced with the choice of giving up their lives for their flocks or saving themselves, they choose to save themselves. Jesus calls these shepherds bad and declares that they care nothing for their sheep. A true test of a good shepherd is his willingness to die for his sheep.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read John 10:11-14. What are some examples of “bad shepherds” in the world today? How can you spot them?**

There are leaders and teachers today who appear to care about the sheep, yet they are only leading and teaching for personal gain. They do not truly care about their people, nor do they really offer the truth to their people. These people are false teachers or bad shepherds who abandon their flocks at the first sign of danger.

**[ THIS ]**

In John 10:15, we see that Jesus is not like the bad shepherds. He is not even just an example of a good shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the only good Shepherd because He alone is the one who can save the sheep. He alone is the one who could willingly lay down His life and take it up again. Because He is fully God, only He could determine when He would breathe His last and when His heart would begin beating again. He came to the world to die for His people. In this passage in John, He points out that no one took His life from Him. He was not forced to die. He chose to die. It matters that He willingly lay down His life. He made the sacrifice necessary to save His sheep from their sins. Jesus' goodness is on display in His willingness to die for us. He was not coerced or forced to die on the cross. He went of His own will and power. He could have easily stopped the crucifixion, yet He chose not to do so for our sakes. He is our Good Shepherd.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why do we call Jesus the “Good Shepherd”?**

Jesus is unlike other shepherds because He is God. Isaiah 40:11 and Psalm 23:11 help us see that He is the anointed one of God and chosen to be the sacrifice for our sins. He alone is the one who could pay the price for our sin.

**How often do you forget Jesus' willingness to lay down His life for you? How can you remind yourself of this truth daily?**

Psalm 79:13 reminds us that praise turns our hearts to the work that God has done through Jesus. Because of our daily lives, we quickly forget that Jesus did die for us as John 3:16 tells us. Yet, when we turn our hearts daily in praise to God, we can remind ourselves of this great sacrifice and remember that He willingly lay down His life to save us.

3. John 10:15: A good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. Jesus willingly lay down His life for His people because He is the Good Shepherd.