

## Good Shepherd: Instructions for Reflection Time

Begin with some reflection in God's presence. *When have you been aware of your frailty, poor judgment, or lostness lately? When have you been aware of dangers or threats to your safety, from physical to psychological to spiritual?*

Read the passage below from John 10, remembering the shepherding reality that we learned about—that at nighttime, the shepherd on duty would lie down and sleep, placing his body across the opening of the gate to the circular sheep pen, essentially “becoming” the gate, to protect his animals. Recognize that Jesus is the good shepherd who lays His life down for us, when He dies on the cross, protecting us forever from Satan and death.

### John 10:11-15

<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.”

Take a moment to read through the children's book by Sally Lloyd-Jones, called *Found*, a retelling of Psalm 23. Ask yourself, “In what ways do I particularly need the protection, care, and leading of the Lord during this season of my life? This week?” Ask Him to lead you in new ways. Praise Him for laying His life down for you. Place yourself as a lamb into His arms.

Look at the photos displayed around the room. Pick the one that most resembles the ways that Jesus seems to be shepherding you right now. Why does that photo resonate with you? Jot down a few thoughts on a post-it note, and place it by the photo (anonymous responses).