

# JESUS IS

John 10:11-18

Week of February 25, 2024

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** Have you ever hired a babysitter or been hired as a babysitter? What would you say are the essential differences between a good babysitter and a bad babysitter?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: John 10:11-18**

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

- 1. Jesus wants to establish His role as the Good Shepherd. He does so in several ways. The first way is to contrast a good shepherd with a hireling (or hired hand). While there are some positive qualities to hirelings, what do you suppose are the negative aspects of hirelings?**

Leader Context:

- *Hirelings are motivated primarily by the paycheck and the hours worked.*
- *Hirelings do not typically have a vested interest in the well being of the sheep.*
- *Hirelings tend to quit as the work gets more difficult.*
- *Hirelings think exclusively in terms of risk/reward benefit without any larger philosophical issues of calling or purpose.*
- *Hirelings are flight risks as other, more lucrative jobs open up.*
- *Shepherds, are essentially, the opposite of this.*

- 2. Shepherds, by contrast, know the sheep. And the sheep know the Shepherd. Typically, the shepherd smells like sheep poop, sheep medicine, and sheep food. That is why sheep can trust the shepherd. What do you suppose are some parallels for today's culture? In what ways can a pastor of a church smell like his congregation?**

Leader Context:

- *Pastors smell like hospitals.*
- *Pastors smell like a kitchen.*
- *Pastors smell like wadded up kleenex.*

- 3. Shepherds lay down their lives for their sheep. That's the essential difference between shepherds and hirelings. What do you think it looks like for pastors and ministry leaders to practically live out this aspect of shepherding like**



## Jesus?

### Leader Context:

- *Answers may vary.*

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### **BECOME:**

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- 4. Jesus as the Great Shepherd came near to us. In His teachings, He calls followers to go near others in love. What do you think it looks like to go near the people in your life? Where you live? Where you work? Where you play?**