

### I Am The Good Shepherd

#### read

*John 10:11-18*

#### think

We love stories of self-sacrifice. It's rare that we hear in the news that someone had put their life on the line for someone else. More often we see this theme highlighted in movies and shows. These stories of sacrifice inspire us because they are so rare and because they accentuate lost virtues in a self-centered world: humility and selflessness.

Jesus says to us, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." The cost of our salvation was pricey: it cost Jesus, the righteous Son of God, his very own life. John the Baptist proclaimed this about Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" Through the sacrifice of Jesus - our sins are forgiven and taken away.

Usually one who sacrifices their life does it for someone they love: a relative or best friend. The Apostle Paul said that rarely will someone give his life for a good person, but God shows his love for us in this: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. In sin, we've made ourselves enemies of God and we've become lost sheep who live in constant danger without a shepherd to lead, guide, and protect us. But the good news of the gospel is this: that out of a great love for us and his Father, Jesus, the good shepherd, came and found us and did everything necessary to bring us safely home to His Father.

#### apply

- Can you think of a time someone put their life at great risk for the benefit of someone else? What's intriguing about self-sacrifice?
- As the good shepherd, what does Jesus do for his sheep?
- In what ways have you seen the work of the good shepherd in your life?

#### pray

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - thank you for the far-reaching love that you have for us. We praise you Jesus, our good shepherd, for leading, protecting, correcting, and guiding us through life. We're ever so thankful for your sacrifice that has given us new life and won our salvation. Holy Spirit - give us the desire and the courage to follow our good shepherd today wherever he might take us.

#### by Brad Robson

Brad Robson is the Pastor of Student Ministries at Independent Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Memphis, TN, where he has served for 9 years. He's a part of a group of youth workers who have posted weekday devotionals on their [YouTube channel](#) during the pandemic.