



I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

IN - helping a sense of belonging...

A helpful icebreaker:

Who has been a mentor to you - that you have been happy to follow for a period of your life and why was that?

UP - hearing from God and growing...

Look at the passage together:

The focus is all on the Shepherd and Hearing God's voice.

- Share your experiences of Hearing God speak to you. What are the characteristics of his voice for you?
- Our faith is relational - we know God not just about him. What are the ways in which this relationship works for you?
- Hearing God speak is all about the communication aspect of relating. This is often a cause of relational breakdown today. How can we improve our communication in all our relationships? (clue Trust and Listening)

OUT - impacting others...

Take some time to talk about the various key

relationship you have with those as yet without faith.

**LIFEgroup
Notes**

We build relational bridges in order to help people share faith. What stops us doing this?

BIBLE READING:

John 10:1-18

10 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 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."