

**Easter 2026**

**The Good Shepherd Gives Life**

**John 10:11-18**

**Purpose:** God's people will celebrate Jesus being the Good Shepherd who died and resurrected through love, in obedience, to give life to His sheep.

**Call to Worship**

**Stand and Read**

**John 10:14-15**

**14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Pray**

Father, today we celebrate the resurrection of the Good Shepherd. He did lay down His life in obedience to you and for us, your sheep, but He also took it up again. His death and resurrection are a powerful demonstration of Jesus Christ's love for you and of Your love for your sheep. We are alive because of this love! Cause us to sing your praises, study your word, and care for each other in a way that brings you joy and pleasure. We proclaim today that Jesus Christ is RISEN!!!

**Message**

**Message Graphic (SLIDE 1)**

**Opening Idea**

**Today, we remember and praise God for a great victory. This day changed the way God's people lived and worshipped Him while living on earth. Up to this point, our worship aligned with the declared Sabbath (seventh day with rest). Christians' practice changed as Jesus defeated death and resurrected on Sunday. Believers began gathering on Sundays, retelling the teachings of Jesus, being discipled by the Apostles and Elders, and committing to make Sunday the Lord's Day with fellowship, worship, and rest. What we do today has been done to remember Jesus Christ as God the Son, Jesus Christ's Death, Jesus Christ's Resurrection, Sing God's Praises, Study God's Word, Care for Each Other, and Eagerly Await Jesus Christ's Return.**

**This past Christmas, we remembered that Jesus Christ declared Himself as the Good Shepherd. Today, we celebrate the Good Shepherd, who became the Sacrificial Lamb, who resurrected, and is the Greatest King!**

**Let's look again at Jesus words about Himself being the Good Shepherd in John 10:11-18**

**Read**

**John 10:11-18 ESV**

**(SLIDE 2)** **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**(SLIDE 3)** **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**(SLIDE 4)** **17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

**Message Graphic (SLIDE 5)**

**Notes on John 10:11-16 The Good Shepherd**

**Jesus is the Good Shepherd (v. 11) (From KB Christmas 2025)**

**Jesus reveals that He is the Good Shepherd. This revelation is given in context of an interaction with the religious leaders about Jesus healing a blind man. The religious leaders cast the healed man out of the temple grounds. Jesus finds the man and the man believes in Jesus and worships Him.** Jesus says that He came into the world that blind people might see and that those who see might become blind. This reveals Jesus' work to heal the blind man and his judgement against the Pharisees. Jesus teaches that the Pharisees are not legitimate shepherds but deceive the people to look like shepherds.

Then in verse 11, Jesus proclaims, “I am the Good Shepherd”! Where the others who claim to shepherd are selfish and they deceive, Jesus is good because He cares for the sheep. **The quality**

that separates Jesus from other shepherds is His goodness. What makes Him good? Jesus directly says that He will lay His life down for the sheep. Jesus is the only good person. Jesus' condition as good is because He is sinless making His heart good, His mind good, His motives good, and Jesus fully and willingly obeys God the Father.

The goodness of Jesus means that He “lays down His life for His sheep.” Laying down His life is seen in two ways.

The first meaning of laying down His life is that He lays aside His ability to summon the full capacity of His deity to provide and protect Himself. He took on flesh and endured human suffering. He was born under an oppressive rule and would experience the full extent of human life. He would not relinquish His deity, but Jesus would not use His power to His full personal benefit.

The second meaning of laying down His life would be a prophesy of the way Jesus would willingly die and endure God's full wrath for sin that Jesus did not commit. Jesus will lay down His life as a substitutionary atonement for His people's sins so that they would no longer be condemned and would receive the peace of Christ to life in peace with God the Father. Jesus is the only one who could do this because He is the only one who is good.

Jesus' identity as a Shepherd shows that He cares for His people. Jesus cares for His people in stepping down from Heaven to earth, taking on flesh, being born as a baby, suffering under Pontius Pilot, growing in wisdom and stature, suffering rejection and hatred from the world, revealing God in the flesh to God's people, healing, providing, teaching, living with, and proclaiming the Lord's favor to man. The shepherd who lives among, walks with, protects, provides, and leads the sheep shows that he cares deeply for His sheep.

### **The “Not Shepherds” (v. 12-13) (From KB Christmas 2025)**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, so then there are other shepherds. **What shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd also shows why others are not good, nor are they actually shepherds. Jesus calls them “hired hands”.** These people are workers who have other concerns that are greater than the sheep. **They are more concerned about the job than the sheep.**

**The shepherd owns the sheep, and the sheep belong to him.** The hired hands do not own the sheep. There is no great impact for losing the sheep. To the hired hand, his life is more important than the life of the sheep. Jesus gives a scenario were a wolf shows up, and the sheep are in danger. The hired hand cares more about his own life than the sheep. **Jesus says that the hired hand will leave the sheep to the wolf. The wolf harms the sheep and there is no one to protect them because the hired hand is gone.** This behavior shows that the hired hand cares

nothing for the sheep. **This is in direct contrast with the shepherd who values the sheep over his own life. The good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep.**

### **Intimate Shepherding (v. 14-15) (From KB Christmas 2025)**

**Jesus, once again, identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd. He will say that His goodness is revealed in His willingness to lay down His life for His sheep.** But Jesus adds another aspect to His goodness. **There is a familiar relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. Jesus says that He knows His sheep. The knowledge the shepherd has of the sheep is intimate and personal. He knows their name and their condition.** Jesus, God the Son, knows all things about all people. Being God, He knows everyone's past, present, and future. But **Jesus uses a personal possessive pronoun. He refers to the sheep as "my own".** The sheep that Jesus is referring to are sheep who belong to Him. Since these sheep belong to Jesus and He knows them, they also know Him. This is an unclear reference to what degree or depth the sheep know the Shepherd. Never the less, **the shepherd knows the sheep, and the sheep know him, so Jesus knows His people and they know Him.**

**Jesus then gives a reference point to understand the knowledge Jesus has for the sheep. The shepherd knows the sheep just as God the Father knows the Son and the Son knows the Father. This is the most intimate and deepest form of knowing that exists. There is no greater depth of knowing or loving than what exists between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.** From this depth of knowing, **God the Son lays down His life for the beloved sheep from knowing the Father and loving Him. It is love that causes the shepherd to lay down His life for His sheep.**

### **One Flock with One Shepherd (v. 16) (From KB Christmas 2025)**

The earlier insight into the perfect knowledge the shepherd has about the sheep in terms of time is clarified in verse sixteen. This is an encompassing idea for all who belong to God. **There are not multiple flocks that will exist separately from one another, but they are unified in the shepherd to be one flock. This is aligned with Jesus' statement to come in [John 14:6](#) where Jesus will say that no one comes to the Father except through Him.**

**This "one flock" that Jesus refers to here isn't identified by the sheep, but by the shepherd. The sheep may differ in place, time, and appearance, but there is only one shepherd. It is the shepherd who is responsible to unify the flock and only he can do it.**

Jesus says that the sheep who belong to other flocks at some time will be brought into the shepherd's flock. **The way the sheep know the shepherd is that they know his voice. Again, this shows that the only way the sheep are unified into one flock is through the shepherd.**

The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice, and they respond to it. **One Shepherd with one flock of sheep!**

### **The Father Loves the Obedient Son (v. 17-18)**

Jesus continues revealing that He is the Good Shepherd in that the love the Father has for Him. Jesus has said that He is Good because He cares for "the sheep" (those who are His). His care for the sheep causes Him to lay down His life. This care and sacrificial action come from His love for the Father and Jesus' obedience to the Father. In obedience, Jesus has the authority to lay down His life. Laying down His life means to die at the hands of another or others. The language here indicates an ending of life action that is not taken but is given. The one's who will end Jesus' life will think they are forcefully taking His life as an act of law abidingness, but Jesus reveals that He will willingly give His life. Not only does He have the authority to give His life, to die at the hands of wicked men, but He also has the authority to take it back up. This is an act of resurrecting a dead person and bringing them back to life. Again, this comes from love and obedience to the Father and from concern for the sheep. This language is different from the laying down of life. This isn't like the willingness to hand Himself over to wicked men to die, but it is a demonstration of authority in power to defeat death and bring new life to the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He loves the Father, is obedient to the Father, has authority to hand His life over to wicked men to be killed as a sacrifice for God's people, and will exercise authority over life and death through resurrection. Having authority to take His life back up, Jesus is prophesying that He will die and be resurrected. He is also telling the listeners and the readers that no one will resurrect Him, but that He will bring Himself back to life. All of this authority and action is exercised from love and through obedience. This brings joy to the Father and is done to glorify God the Father and the Son. Jesus laying down His life and taking it back is proof that He is the only Good Shepherd.

### **The Good Shepherd Defeated Death and Gives Life (SLIDE 6)**

#### **His Death Makes Us Clean**

We were Once Stained by Sin, but now we are clean

We Abide with God

We Enjoy His Love

We Do Good Works

We Make Him Known

## **His Resurrection Gives Us Life**

Once Dead Now Alive

Once Separated Now Found

Live Abundant Life

Joyful Life is Worshipping God

## **God's People Know Jesus Christ (SLIDE 7)**

- It is estimated that 117 billion people have lived since the beginning of mankind  
Hundreds of Billions of people born – 1 came from Heaven and Born to a Virgin  
Hundreds of Billions of people have lived – 1 Lived Perfectly Sinless (Truly Innocent)  
Hundreds of Billions of people have died – 1 Died Truly Innocent to Justify Guilty People  
Hundreds have been resurrected – 1 Resurrected Himself

**Jesus Christ is the One to secure our forgiveness, make us right with God, and will gather us to live with Him forever.**

**Jesus Christ is God the Son**

**Jesus Christ is The Good Shepherd**

**Jesus Christ is The Perfect Sacrificial Lamb**

**Jesus Christ Resurrected and Lives**

While we were sinners, Christ died for us

He defeated death and we live victoriously

He resurrected and will come for us!

**Why does the Good Shepherd willingly die and exert the power to defeat death and resurrect?**

**1) Sin and Death**

Everyone, except the Good Shepherd, has sinned and must face God's wrath and punishment – God Hates Sin! Sinful People are Spiritually Dead.

**2) Forgiveness**

God has made a way for sinful people to be forgiven of their sins, made alive, and made pure and holy

**3) Purification (Made Clean)**

People are stained by their sin. This stain is offensive to the Father and He will cleanse His people from their sins and purify them from their stains to be made worthy to abide with Him. This requires death and the shedding of blood. Either we die and shed our blood (insufficient due to sin) or a substitute that is sufficient (sinless) must be given to make amends with God. Only a pure sacrifice will make an unclean person clean. Jesus is the pure sacrifice and is the only one who can purify people.

**4) Dead People Given Life**

The Holy Spirit was deposited into the dead person and they became alive. These people (who were dead in sin) were given faith and faith brought life. Dead people are no longer dead and their spiritual heart beats with life. Life through faith also brought belief and awareness. The darkened mind was awakened by the light from above (God) and the living person realized their situation with God and their sin that doomed them. Life led to believing they needed Jesus and they needed to ask God for and receive forgiveness for their sins. Life is sustained in living by faith, responding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and asking for and receiving forgiveness while killing the sin that causes us to ask for forgiveness. Living people grow in their dependence upon and gratitude towards God for the life He gives.

**5) Setting People Apart to Glorify God**

God, the Holy Spirit, exists within God's people and grows them to live by faith and to become set apart (Holy) to do good works that God has prepared for them so they can bring fame and attention (Glory) to God. God enjoys this from His people, and He uses their good work and His fame to affirm faith He gives to others and making them members of His family.

**6) Living With God and Praising Him Forever**

God's people will live with Him eternally. This happens when the saint sheds their flesh and lives spiritually with God in Heaven.

## **Is Jesus Christ Your Good Shepherd? (SLIDE 8)**

Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – The Good Shepherd

Ask Forgiveness for Your Sins and Receive Forgiveness

Live Obediently to God

Experience His Pleasing Love

## **The Goodness of Easter (SLIDE 9)**

The Good Shepherd Became the Sacrificial Lamb and Exchanged His Life for Your Death

The Good Shepherd Resurrected to Give You Hope of Living with Him

- **You Are Alive in Jesus Christ**

**Close**

## **Romans 6:4 ESV (SLIDE 10)**

**4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

## **Message Graphic (SLIDE 11)**