



Sermon Discussion Guide

I AM series - The Good Shepherd - Christian Lindbeck
November 1, 2020

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

At the beginning of the year delegate different roles to people in your group as much as possible. Even if they are small roles (the person who sets up the Zoom call or emails reminders out to people). This is a great way to help people feel more connected and develop leadership in the group.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- 1. Share one thing that has been hard and one thing that has been encouraging for you in the last week.
- 2. What makes a good leader?
- 3. Pick one and answer who would make a better leader and why?
 - a. Aladdin or the Sultan
 - b. Elsa or Anna
 - c. Mr. Ed or Lassie
 - d. Ghandi or Alexander the Great
 - e. Queen Elizabeth the 1st or Henry the VIII
 - f. Harry Potter or Hermione
 - g. Gandalf or Aragorn
 - h. Jo March or Marme
 - i. Peter Pan or Wendy
 - j. King Peter or Prince Caspian
 - k. Moses or Aaron
 - l. David or Solomon

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- 4. Reread some of the old testament passages listed and talk about the expectations that the people of Israel would have had for the Messiah, the Good Shepherd.
 - a. Gen. 48:15
 - b. Ez. 34:1-6
 - c. Psalm 78:51-55
 - d. Isaiah 40:11
 - e. Psalm 23



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5. Read John 10:11-17 followed by Hebrews 13:20. The idea of a good shepherd has a history not only in the Old Testament, but the new. Identify other passages or stories that include shepherds and sheep and how those stories may affect the minds of the people at the time of Jesus.

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
6. Compare Jesus' leadership with those of our leaders both here and around the world? How about our leaders in our homes, churches, businesses, ourselves?
 7. When we see a James Bond movie, for example, we have expectation of what will happen. What he will do and we are watching and waiting for the result! What are we watching and waiting for now? What is our expectation and attitude?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
8. A good leader is one who leads through self-submitting love for the other. What kind of leader are you? What kind of leader are you following?
 9. The Jews were waiting for that Good Shepherd. Are you aching and waiting for a shepherd? At home, the office, in your marriage, city, church?

Time of Prayer