Agape House of Worship

Wednesday Bible Study - November 11, 2026

Study Series: The Great I AM - The I Am Statements
Part 5: I AM the Good Shepherd **Teacher: Minister Dozie Ewurum**

Week	Teaching Topic	Main Text
1	Introduction: The Revelation of the Great I AM	Exodus 3:14; John 8:58
2	I AM the Bread of Life	John 6:25-40
3	I AM the Light of the World	John 8:12-20
4	I AM the Door	John 10:1-10
5	**I AM the Good Shepherd**	**John 10:11-18**
6	I AM the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:17-27
7	I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:1-11
8	I AM the True Vine	John 15:1-8

Introduction: Jesus, the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 (NIV) *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

Last week, Jesus called Himself the Door. Through Him we enter and find pasture. He came so His sheep might have life (John 10:9-10). This week, Jesus tells us what that life costs Him.

In **John 10:11-18**, Jesus shows us what makes Him the Good Shepherd. When a wolf comes, the hired hand runs. Jesus willingly gives His life for the sheep because they belong to Him. He knows them personally, and they know Him. His care reaches beyond the sheep already in the pen as He gathers others into one flock. Finally, Jesus explains why He can face death willingly. His Father has given Him authority to lay down His life and take it up again. As we study His words, we'll consider how knowing this Shepherd shapes the way we trust Him and follow Him together.

Question: What does a shepherd do for the sheep?

A shepherd guides the flock to food and water, protects it from danger, and cares for weak or injured sheep.

Context: God's Promise of a Faithful Shepherd

In John 9:34-38, religious leaders cast out the man Jesus had healed, but Jesus found him and brought him to faith. The shepherd teaching follows this confrontation. It exposes the difference between leaders who fail God's people and Jesus, who cares for them.

Israel's leaders had neglected the people God entrusted to them. God promised to search for His scattered sheep and give them a faithful shepherd from King David's family (Ezekiel 34:11–16, 23). **Jesus is that promised Shepherd.** In John 10:11, He shows how far His care goes: He willingly lays down His life for His sheep.

Question: What does it tell you about Jesus that He went looking for the man the religious leaders had rejected?

What Makes Jesus the Good Shepherd? (John 10:11-18)

Jesus describes His care in His own words. He lays down His life for His sheep, knows them personally, gathers them into one flock, and has authority to take up His life again.

I. He Gives His Life for the Sheep (John 10:11-13)

The hired hand (John 10:12-13)	Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14-15)
The sheep do not belong to him.	Jesus knows His sheep, and they know Him.
He sees the wolf and runs. The flock scatters.	Jesus willingly lays down His life for the sheep.

Jesus bears the cost of our rescue at the cross. **1 Peter 2:24-25** connects His bearing our sins with our return to the Shepherd of our souls.

Question: What does Jesus' willingness to die for you tell you about His love for you?

Application: When suffering tempts us to question Christ's love, we look to His cross. His care is not a promise of a trouble-free life; it is the commitment of the Shepherd who gave Himself for us.

II. He Knows His Sheep (John 10:14-15)

Jesus knows His own, and His sheep know Him. **John 10:14 (NIV)**

1. **We belong to Him.** Jesus calls them "my sheep." Our relationship with Him is personal.
2. **He knows us, and we know Him.** This knowledge is more than recognizing information. It speaks of relationship, love, and belonging. Jesus describes it in relation to the mutual knowledge of the Father and the Son.
3. **Jesus knows us and gives His life for us.** He already knew our weaknesses when He chose to die for us. We can bring our fears, failures, and burdens honestly before Him.

Question: What helps you speak honestly with Jesus when you've let Him down?

Application: Make room to know Christ through His Word, prayer, and obedience. In this chapter, His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:3-5, 27). Our response to His voice begins with receiving His truth; spiritual impressions must be tested by Scripture.

III. He Gathers One Flock (John 10:16)

In verse 12 the wolf scatters the sheep. In verse 16 Jesus gathers them. Even the sheep beyond this pen will hear His voice. In the wider biblical context, this points to His gathering people beyond Israel, including Gentiles, into His people. **Ephesians 2:11-18** explains how Christ brings Jews and Gentiles near through His blood and reconciles both to God in one body.

1. **His saving mission reaches beyond our familiar circle.** No ethnicity, nationality, or social group has exclusive possession of Him.
2. **Those He brings hear His voice.** They are gathered around Jesus and His truth.
3. **There is one flock under one Shepherd.** Our unity rests in belonging to Christ. He gathers His people under His own care and authority.

Question: Who could you make room for in your circle this week?

IV. He Willingly Dies and Rises Again (John 10:17-18)

Jesus willingly lays down His life with His resurrection in view. **John 10:17 (NIV)**

1. **His death is voluntary.** Jesus is not helpless before His enemies. Though people act against Him, they cannot take His life independently of His willing self-giving.
2. **His death looks forward to resurrection.** He has authority to lay down His life and to take it again. The Shepherd who dies for His sheep lives to shepherd them.
3. **His mission expresses obedience to His Father.** The command received from the Father and the Son's willing action belong together. The cross and resurrection accomplish God's purpose.

Question: What difference does it make to your prayers that Jesus is alive today?

Our Response

- **Trust His sacrifice:** Receive Christ by faith and rest your confidence in His saving work, rather than your ability to earn His care (John 10:11, 15).
- **Know your Shepherd:** Bring your real life before Him and grow in relationship with Him through Scripture and prayer (John 10:14-15).
- **Listen and obey:** Identify one clear teaching of Jesus that requires a practical response this week (John 10:16, 27).
- **Welcome His flock:** Pray for and take a concrete step toward someone outside your familiar circle (John 10:16).

Memory verse: John 10:11 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Conclusion and Reflection

Jesus knows us by name, gave His life for us, and lives to lead us.

Question: Because Jesus gave His life for you, what is one thing you'll do differently this week?

1. **Trust:** I will bring Jesus the worry I have been carrying alone.
2. **Listen:** I will put one teaching of Jesus into practice today.
3. **Welcome:** I will make room for someone who is usually left out.

Final Thought: The Shepherd who laid down His life for us is alive today. We can trust Him with what lies ahead and make room for the people He gathers.