

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## I Am - Part 5 - The Good Shepherd

### Introduction

Jesus tells the disciples that he is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his friends. Only Jesus knows the specific life journey that is best for each one of us. While we may vainly attempt to navigate our lives to avoid suffering, in reality our lives often contain more complexity and disappointment than we anticipate. However, if we believe that Jesus has our life in his hands, and if we submit to and trust in him despite our circumstances, even the darkest times can be a pathway to life transformation.

### Read

John 10:11-15, Psalm 23:1-6

### Discuss

1. Read Psalm 23:1-6. What does the idea of God as our shepherd mean to you? What imagery do these verses bring to your mind?
2. Pastor Tim challenges us to choose dependence on Jesus over control in our lives. What challenging situation have you been through where you have needed to fully depend on God?
3. Read John 10:11-15. How do you understand the statement, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"? How does this apply to you?
4. What do we need to do to allow Jesus to lead our lives?
5. Why might allowing Jesus to lead us be challenging, even for a Christian?
6. "Submission without obedience is just good intentions." Discuss
7. "Clarity comes in the midst of obedience, and not before." Has this been your experience? Why might this be the case with Jesus?

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## **Respond**

On the journey of life, our celebrated 'mountain top moments' are often seeded as we journey through the valley of the shadow of death in very challenging circumstances. If we are willing to submit first to Jesus, and seek his clarity despite our circumstances, often we are enabled to move beyond our current challenges.

What circumstance or situation do you need Jesus to free you from today? Spend time in prayer now, either individually or in smaller groups, to seek his freedom in this area of your life.

**Due to the school holidays and upcoming public holidays, Going Deeper will be in recess for the rest of April. The next study will be provided on 2nd May.**