

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### *John 10:11-18*

#### **For Starting**

- What has been the highlight of your week so far?
- What was the first thing that you ever remember in your life?
- Describe a purchase that you made that you now regret.
- Jesus describes himself as the “Good Shepherd”. What does this title mean to you? Is it a helpful picture? Why/why not?

#### **For Reviewing**

- What do Good Shepherds do (v.11)?
- Where do hired hands go when opposition arrives (v.12)?
- Who do hired hands value the most (v.13)?
- What do Good Shepherds know (v.14)?
- With whom is Jesus in relationship with (v.15)? Why?
- How many flocks and shepherds are envisaged (v.16)?
- What happens *after* Jesus lays down His life (v.17)?
- Why is Jesus able to lay down His life (v.18)?

#### **For Discussion**

- Contrast the differences between the Good Shepherd and the hired hand.
- “*I know my sheep and my sheep know Me*” (v.14). What do you think it looks like for us, as Jesus’ sheep, to have this sort of relationship with Jesus, our Good Shepherd?
- Twice Jesus says the Good Shepherd “*lays down his life for the sheep*” (v.11,17). What do you think Jesus meant by this? See also Matthew 27:50 and John 19:30.
- “*[Jesus’] dying and the rising again are deeds, not merely experiences.*” Do you agree/disagree? Why/why not? What difference/s is there between ‘deeds’ and ‘experiences’?
- What are some examples of the way that Jesus knows you?
- As a sheep belonging to the Good Shepherd, what will characterise our lives? See John 10:27.
- You could end by reading together John 10:14-15.

## **John 10:11-18 (NIVUK)**

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns 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. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

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