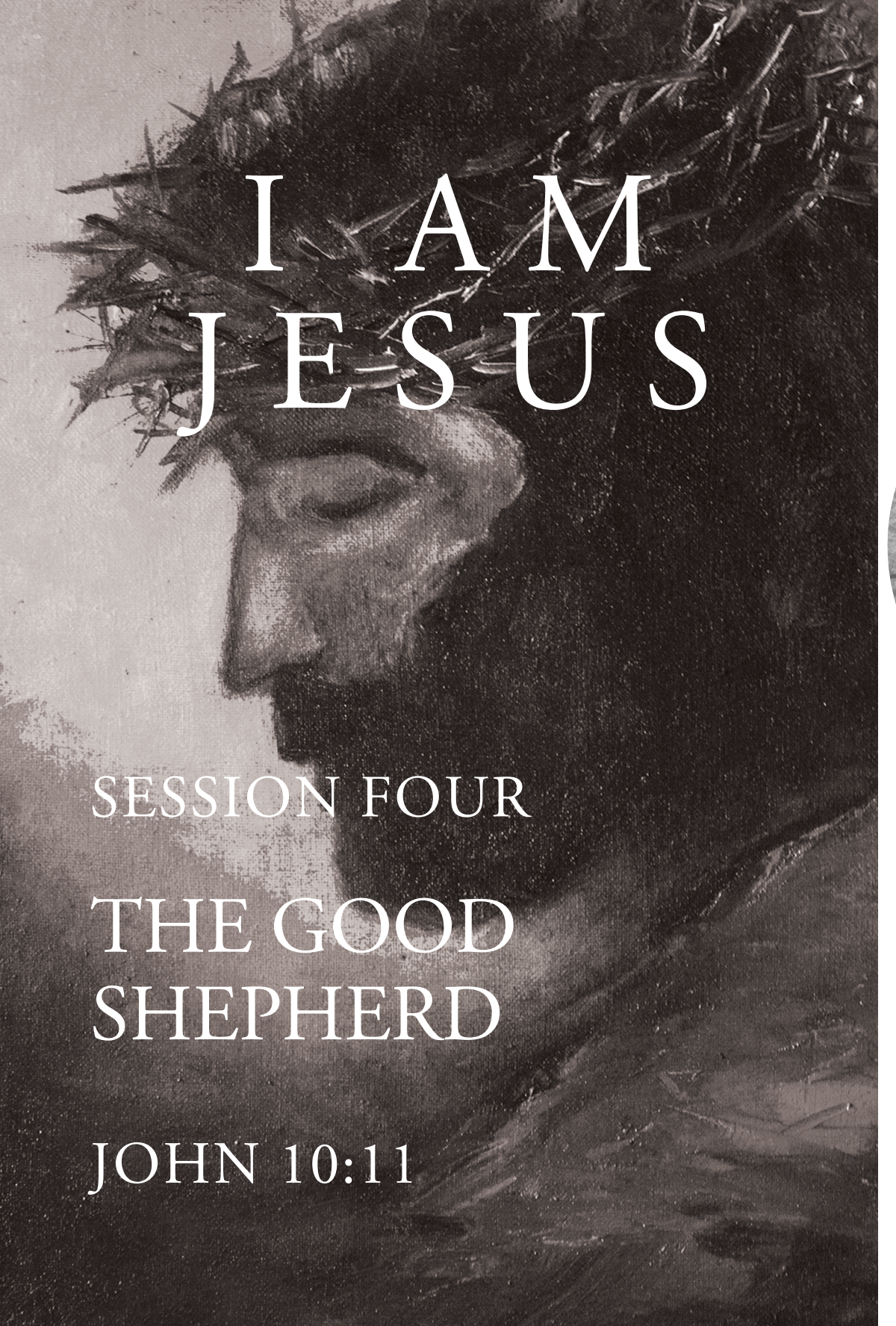




I AM JESUS

SESSION FOUR

THE GOOD
SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11



CONNECT

During each session, we will begin with a few questions to help you connect with and get to know one another. Please take a few minutes and answer at least one of the following questions:



- Share about a teacher or youth leader who really made a difference in your life.

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- Share about the worst boss you ever had.



DVD SESSION

This study is designed to be used with an accompanying video teaching. Please play DVD Session Four. Use the space below for notes, questions, or comments you want to bring up in the discussion.



GROW

In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussions to help expand your knowledge on the topic of this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few of the questions to answer and discuss in your group.

Go around and share what stood out to you from the video lesson this week.

*My sheep listen
to my voice; I know
them, and they follow
me.*

—John 10:27

Read John 10:11-21

- 1** Make a list of the qualities of “the Good Shepherd” and another list of the “hired hand.”

2 How is the concept of “the Good Shepherd,” the foundation of Jesus being the door for the sheep (John 10:1-10)?

*The Lord is my shepherd, I
lack nothing. He makes me
lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet
waters, He refreshes my
soul. He guides me
along the right paths
for His name's sake.*

—Psalm 23

Read Ezekiel 34:2-6 and Matthew 9:36

3 According to these passages, what would happen to sheep who did not have a good shepherd? Or worse yet, had a bad shepherd?

4 Describe some of the difficulties you faced during a time when you experienced life with no shepherd or under a bad shepherd.

5 How might your Life Group help in the healing process of these experiences? Share about another good shepherd in your life.

Read Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:10-11, and Ezekiel 34:11-16

6 According to these passages, what does the Lord say He is going to do for His flock as “the Good Shepherd?”

7 In John 10, Jesus basically describes Himself as the Shepherd in fulfillment of the Psalms, Isaiah, and Ezekiel passages. What do you think that meant for the Jews at that time? What do you think it means for the world? What does it mean for you?

40 8 Describe some changes in your life since Jesus became your Good Shepherd.

Read Romans 8:35-39 and 1 Peter 2:25

9 According to these passages, what can separate us from God's love? How would you describe the strength of God's love for you?

10 What are some things from your past that you think are just too much for God to handle or to love? What steps do you think you need to take to better trust and depend on Jesus, as "the Good Shepherd," and allow Him to shepherd you in ways only He can?



Deeper Study

Read John 21:15-19

11 What does Jesus appoint Peter to do? What do you think Jesus meant when He asked Peter the questions?

12 If you were Peter, how would you live out these instructions that Jesus gave you?

13 Share about someone in your life that you could shepherd and care for. What difference do you think you could make in that person's life? How have you felt when someone has come alongside you and cared for you?

Basically, there are two paths you can walk: faith or fear. It's impossible to simultaneously trust God and not trust God.

—Charles F. Stanley

14 How does living out John 21:15-19 show God's love to the world?





IMPACT

One of the core principles in Life Groups is to have an impact on the community around us. In the following section, we have given you some ideas of how you can have an impact in the community both as a group and individually. Please go through and discuss how you can impact the community around you with the gospel.

- We all have friends, family, and co-workers who need to understand that God knows them and He knows what they're going through. One way to help others come to a knowing relationship with Him is to pray with your Life Group, that they would find a loving relationship with Jesus. We would like for you and your Life Group to visit the **Blessing List on page 80**. Spend some time in your Life Group sharing names of men and women to encounter Jesus. Pray for them to submit their lives to the love of Jesus. After all, the greatest blessing anyone can receive is to be in relationship with the living God.
- On your own this week, take a step further with the concepts of this Life Group lesson and ask yourself a few questions. How is Jesus your Good Shepherd? How are Jesus' words the truth you need for your life? How are you allowing Jesus to guide you in paths of righteousness and beside still waters? How are you allowing Him to shepherd you into holiness and transforming you to be more like Him?

Take time this week to pray, and write out some of the things that keep you from being fully shepherded by God. These may actually be good things in your life, but write them down anyway. Talk with a godly person in your life that you trust to be honest with you about these things. Take time to pray over the next week or two about your schedule, busyness, and other "stuff" that may keep you from experiencing God's comfort and protection.

Ultimately, this time spent with God can help you put Him at the center of your life. Letting go of the things that hinder the power of the Holy Spirit and His influence on your life may be tough at first. But as you let Him in to more areas of your life, you will experience life in a new and exciting way that you may not have dreamed possible!

PRAYER AND PRAISE REPORT

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests, and make a note when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, it's okay to pray silently.

Prayer Requests:

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Praise Reports:
