

# The Parable of the Good Shepherd

You know this story. You remember hearing how when Jesus was alive and ministering in Israel, people asked him, “Who are you?” and he replied, “I am the Good Shepherd who gives his sheep all that they need, all of his love, all of his care.” But every time we hear this story we can hear something new. Let’s listen to the words of Jesus.

*I am the Good Shepherd.*



*The Good Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*



*When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*



*But they will never follow a stranger; in fact they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.*



*I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me; just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.  
I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.*



*I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in also, and they will heed my voice.*



*They will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

What did you hear?

I wonder how the sheep feel when they hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

What do they do?

I wonder how they feel when they hear the voice of a stranger? What do they do?

I wonder what Jesus means about having abundant life? What might that look like?

I wonder who these sheep might be?

I wonder who the other sheep are, that Jesus talks about bringing into the fold?

What might you like to do now? Is there anything you would like to say to Jesus?

Would you like to draw a picture?