

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of July 24, 2016

John 10:11-15

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own 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.”

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>11</sup> *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep.”*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Discuss what you know about shepherds and sheep.



7. Having a personal relationship with God is vital in our spiritual journey with God. Do you agree with this statement? If so, what role do we play in furthering our relationship with God?
  
8. Can the existence of God be proven? What is the difference between certainty and faith?
  
9. What do you think the writer of John wants us to learn from Jesus' imagery of sheep and the good shepherd?
  
10. Average attendance of worship at all major Protestant churches is in a slight decline. Does trusting God play a role in this decline with the way our culture is today? If so, what are the issues that make it more difficult versus cultures in our past?