

NO BETTER SHEPHERD

March 23, 2025

Get a Grip & Get a Life // Truth That Divides // John 10:11-21

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Is there anything noteworthy that is going on in your life since last week? Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others since we last met?
2. What was one upgrade you've gotten in life (car, phone, house, etc.) that you later realized wasn't actually "better"?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. From a fresh reading of John 10:11-21 [read it together], what's one thing that speaks to you in your current walk?
4. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?
5. How is a hired hand different from an authentic shepherd, and how do you see that contrast in today's world?
6. Have someone from your group read 1 Peter 5:1-4. What are some things that a biblical elder/shepherd should and should not do?
7. In John 10:14, Jesus says "I know My own and My own know Me." Pastor Jeremy preached that while Christ knows us instantly, we must pursue knowing Him. In what ways are you growing in your knowledge of Jesus? What does that process look like in your daily life?
8. How does the idea of Christ as your good shepherd fit into your current perspective of Jesus? In what ways should it change the way you think about Him?
9. What does Jesus' pursuit of other sheep tell you about God's heart for all people?
10. What does Jesus' willing laying down of His life for you or His taking that life back up again teach you about how the Good Shepherd relates to you?

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

11. What is the Good Shepherd calling or convicting you to do differently in your life?
12. How can this group pray for you to grow deeper in knowing and trusting the Good Shepherd?

Take turns praying for one another over this and any other prayer requests that the group may have.



Announcements

You may have noticed that we have new **“Reserved” parking spaces for first-time guests**. This is a part of our mission to multiply God’s glory on the earth. New visitors to our church represent new opportunities for individuals to hear the gospel, join our family, and enter the process of becoming disciples who make disciples and live their lives to the glory of our great God. Therefore, we want to show generous hospitality to our first-time guests. Those parking spots enable our hospitality teams (Parking, Hello, and Seating Teams) to quickly identify new guests and helpfully direct them to the next step.

We need your help! We recently had a “secret shopper” experience from a long-time church consultant who gave us some pointers toward becoming a more friendly church. His advice is this: **there’s a difference between greeting individuals and welcoming them.**

We want to greet everyone who comes to New Vision – whether they are first-time guests or one thousand-and-first time guests. Greeting someone is as simple as saying, **“Hi, we’re glad you’re here.”** If you’re serving on a hospitality-oriented serving team, this is especially important. Don’t let your conversations interfere with your willingness to let every single person who comes through know “we’re glad you’re here.” And don’t just say it; mean it!

But what if you recognize a first-time guest? How would you recognize them? Well, you may see them parking in our first-time guest parking spots or checking in at our first-time guest counter. You may see them walking through the church carrying a first-time guest gift bag. Or, you may just have to ask a face that seems new, “have you been here before?” For first-time guests, we want to go beyond greeting to welcoming them.

Here's where a welcome is different. A welcome says **“we’re glad you’re here AND this is why you’re going to love our church...”** Then you can tell a first-time guest about what makes New Vision so special. You might say “you will hear the Word of God taught clearly here.” Or “our church is like a family.” Or “you’re going to love our kids program!” There are many good things you could say. Our friend, the church consultant, put it to us this way – “you guys have something exceptional that is very important here. Your community needs what your church has to offer. So you need to sell it!”

OK, brainstorm as a group: what are some reasons you might tell someone they’re going to love New Vision Fellowship?

Individual Options for Going Deeper

Check out [this series on Psalm 23 on RightNow Media](https://nvf.life/rnm). (Don’t have an account yet? Sign up for one here: <https://nvf.life/rnm>) It’s a 6-part series with a video for each verse of the beloved psalm, but the total length of all sessions is just 56 minutes.

If you have a little more time (maybe a long drive to work), check out this series of messages on Psalm 23 called [The Secret of Satisfaction](#) from the late Adrian Rogers (Pastor Jeremy’s favorite preacher)

Think about how having the Lord as your Shepherd and experiencing His protection, provision and pursuit enhances your life. Pray to God and thank Him for those things.