

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### LOOK

Have you ever known the love of someone who would give their life for you? How was/is that for you?

### BOOK

John 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

- 1) According to this passage, what makes the shepherd 'good'?

- 2) To whom do you imagine Jesus was referring when he references 'another fold'?
- 3) What are the consequences of having a shepherd who is not good? Have you ever experienced a false or hired shepherd? How did that turn out?
- 4) Discuss 'lays down his life'. What does this mean for Jesus? We read this in retrospect, through the lens of the crucifixion. In what ways other than dying did Jesus lay down his life?

### TOOK

In our time, which sheep are not of our fold, and how can we embrace them?

Do you think we can pour out our lives, without first taking in the love Jesus has for us?

How would your day to day life change if you truly believed that Jesus as Good Shepherd was always there for you?

For what, or whom, would you be willing to lay down your life? What would that look like?

What holds you back from pouring yourself out for something or someone? (Time, money, fear?)

The Irish tell the story of a man who arrives at the gates of heaven and asks to be let in. St. Peter says, "Of course, just show us your scars." The man says, "I have no scars". St. Peter says, "What a pity. Was there nothing worth fighting for?"