



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Church: The Flock of Christ
Speaker: Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Small Groups & Community Life
Scripture: John 10:11-16

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“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 other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:11-16 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In this passage of scripture, John talks about the church, the flock, belonging to Christ. During this time, people knew if they saw a singular sheep that it belonged to a flock. They knew that sheep are hardwired to follow each other for protection, survival, and warmth and could not survive on their own. God chooses a flock of sheep as his analogy for us. The flock is His picture for His people. God constantly refers to His people as his sheep.

The church is not an event, a location, a product or an experience. The Church is God's passion. The Church is the Flock of Christ.

Perhaps God chooses a flock of sheep because He knew that we can't take care of ourselves, needing help to work through all the seasons of life and the many things that come upon us. We need a great shepherd. Being a Christian means we can be vulnerable and recognize we can't live this life on our own with everything in the world that comes at us. So much of our life is dependent on a Good Shepherd.

- A sheep belongs to a flock. Christians belong to the Church - to the flock of Christ.
- A flock belongs to a shepherd. The Church belongs to Jesus - the Good Shepherd.
- A flock of sheep are vulnerable and dependent. The Church flock is vulnerable and dependent.
- A healthy flock enjoys the commitment and relationship with a good shepherd. The Church enjoys relationship with the committed Good Shepherd.

Jesus contrast the Good Shepherd and the hired hand. The hired hand is just in it for the money, he is paid to be there and runs when he sees trouble. Jesus is committed to you no matter what you are facing in your life. He goes before you and lays down his life for you, for the Church.

Jesus delights in knowing us and wants to spend time with us. He delights in a relationship with you. Just as the shepherd knows all about the lives of each of his sheep, so Jesus knows everything about you – your whole life.

Jesus is so vital to the Church. We don't need to do any heavy lifting, as a lot of the heavy lifting is done by the Good Shepherd. The sheep need to know the voice of their shepherd. God calls us to listen to his voice and follow him. Are you listening to that voice? We need the word of God.

All of us came to know Christ by someone else. None of us came to Christ by ourselves, then how can we live by ourselves? We need people around us who may know the Shepherd's voice better than we do. There is no such thing as a solo journey with Christ. Do not isolate yourself, letting the enemy see who the biggest target is so that he can come out to steal and destroy.

As the flock of Christ, we are not to be exclusive and should welcome anyone who chooses to join this flock. We are meant to be open hearted and hospitable. As a church we need to care for one another. Being sheep that move other sheep in the right direction.

Jesus came as a perfect lamb of God. He lived and died on the cross to give us true life to break the power of sin. He became one of us so that we could live life to the full and more abundantly.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Helen Kim Nowalk continues our summer sermon series Church: Being a Community of Jesus Followers. Today Pastor Helen's sermon focuses on the church as the Flock of Christ and what it means for us to be the flock of Christ and how Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did you feel like you belonged, or did you feel as though you were on your own? Does that upbringing affect who you view your own relationship with the church today?
3. How is your connection with the church? Do you feel you are on your own or are you part of the body?
4. What struggles do you find living counter-culturally for Christ, in the world today?
5. During this time of isolation for many, what are you doing, or could be doing to connect with both the flock of the church and to Christ? Is it mostly alone or are you striving to find a way to connect? If you are looking for ways to connect with the body contact a small group leader in your neighborhood here: <https://newlife.nyc/communities/>