



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Promises of God: The Lord is Good**
Speaker: **Helen Kim Nowalk, Community Life Pastor**
Scripture: **John 10:11-18**

"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. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 10:11-18 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In this part of scripture, we see Jesus as the good shepherd. Being a shepherd was not an easy job during ancient times, and it is still a difficult and hard job today. You know the mark of a good shepherd through the testing of time. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. We see Jesus as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Jesus was stepping into a life that he knew would end in his death.

God's goodness is committed to you even in the face of death.

A shepherd has an intimate relationship with their sheep – they know their sheep and their sheep knew them. Jesus is just this kind of shepherd. He knows you on an intimate level and sees where and when you have been wounded.

How do we see God's goodness lived out in the life of Jesus? Throughout scripture we see Jesus relationally invested in his disciples and in the lives of those he meets and has encounters with.

The only reason we know what good is, is because of God. He is origin of goodness and because of this, we can resonate with the image of the shepherd.

What happens because of God's goodness?

- God's goodness transforms our lives.
- God's goodness does not mean we always feel good.
- God's goodness is best seen over time.
- Our response to God's goodness makes us carriers of His goodness.

No matter what your story is, when God's goodness transforms your story, it becomes a testimony.

Goodness is the mark of a Christian, for it is God's goodness that transforms us.

God's goodness means he is committed to us even in the face of death. God is good is not just something we say, it is a promise of God which means that He can be trusted and will be faithful to his promises.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor continues our summer series on The Promises of God in John 10. Today Pastor Helen explores The Lord is Good, what this means and how this promise encourages and challenges us in the midst of the brokenness we see in our world today.

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 grow up in a home where you were surrounded by people who exhibited what you considered to be good, where someone did something good? Or did you grow up in an environment where you witnessed examples of those who were not good, maybe causing you pain and suffering? How does what you experienced influence the way you are, or are not, able to extend goodness to others?
3. Where are you today? Are you having a great moment and a good time, or are you struggling? God's goodness is seen over a length of time, and he is faithful to finish what he has started in you. God is constantly pursuing you. Find time this week to reach out to brother and sisters in Christ to talk about what you are going through, or journal about your feelings offering them up to God.
4. What do you need from the Lord's presence today, as he longs to give you what you are looking for? How do you feel when you hear that no need is too big for God? Whether you are seeking guidance, need comfort or protection, desire rest or need healing – God is looking to offer this to you today. Bring your needs to the Lord this week in your time of silence.