

# MYSTERY

DISCOVERING WHO GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE

## Who is the Flock of God?

### SUMMARY:

Hebrews 13:20-21 serves as a kind of benediction for the letter. A *benediction* (lit., “a good word”) is often a summary, a blessing, and a call to action. Here, the “good word” is that Jesus is our Great Shepherd (see also John 10:11-18). From His identity as shepherd comes our identity as part of His flock.

One of the earliest known depictions of Jesus is a wall painting in the Domitilla Catacombs in Rome, portraying Him as a shepherd among His sheep. From the beginning, the Church has been known as a flock formed and informed by the actions of our Great Shepherd. It is Jesus who is resurrected. It is Jesus to whom we belong through the new covenant of His blood. It is Jesus who equips us for His good will. We are His sheep.

Take a moment to write down a few things that you know about sheep.

Can you think of anything the Bible says about sheep?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Upward

Read John 10:11-18. Why does a shepherd lay down his life for his sheep?

Hebrews 13:20 describes a resurrected Great Shepherd. How does Jesus’ resurrection reshape your understanding of His willing death?

Inward

In the sheep/shepherd relationship, who is in charge? In what ways are you prone to get this twisted? What is one thing you can do this week to rightly order your identity as a part of the flock of Jesus?

Outward

John 10:16 talks about Jesus drawing other sheep into the one flock. Who are the people that you want to hear the voice of the Great Shepherd? Take some time with your group to pray for them by name.

How can you be a part of helping them to hear the voice of Jesus?