



The God of New Life

SUMMARY:

Sometimes things are so interconnected that it is difficult to imagine one without the other. You might think of a food pairing or specific place and date or a long-married couple who seem to have one shared identity. In healthy relationships, over time we begin to know and trust and anticipate the other. A shepherd is known by its love for, care for and constant attentiveness to the sheep. The sheep know the shepherd and the shepherd knows the sheep. A hired hand doesn't have the same level of intimacy with the sheep nor do they view the life of the sheep as more precious than their own. Transactional relationships will never be intimate and intimate relationships will never be transactional.

Jesus the Good Shepherd has laid down His life for us for the purpose of leading us down a righteous path toward increased intimacy with Him. He gave his life for us so that we would live a new life in him and that His life would be seen through us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Upward:

Read Psalm 16:11 and 23:1-6.

What are some ways that the LORD, the Good Shepherd is present and attentive to His sheep?

Inward:

Read Ephesians 4:20-24.

Take some time to remember your old identity. Now take some time to consider how your new identity is created according to God's likeness. Where is your new nature becoming more apparent to you and others?

Outward:

Read Hebrews 13:20-21.

God is growing you in Christlikeness for a purpose. What are some ways that you can see this happening through you to those around you?