



Introduction to Series – *Thrive!*  
 Week 1

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
 10am & 6.30pm services

**Many people are \_\_\_\_\_  
 but few are really \_\_\_\_\_?**

- Living for s\_\_\_\_\_
- Living overwhelmed by s\_\_\_\_\_
- Living oppressed by S\_\_\_\_\_
- Looking to superficial s\_\_\_\_\_ for answers

Why doesn't God do something? Doesn't he care?

Jesus said, ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."***

(John 10:10 TNIV)

**Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ so that  
 you could \_\_\_\_\_.**

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ to fullness of life.

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." (v 9)

I am \_\_\_\_\_ and will care for you.

"I am the good shepherd." (v 11a)

I have \_\_\_\_\_ so that you can really live.

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (v 11b)

**Jesus wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ not just \_\_\_\_\_.**

**If this is true what should I do?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**Ask Him.**

Come to God through Jesus, the gate. Ask him to be your shepherd.

**Know Him.**

Follow the Good Shepherd, listen to his voice, go where he leads, trust him completely, obey him and know him.

**No Christ, no life; know Christ, know life.**

*"In him was life and that life was the light of all people."* (John 1:4)



# Small Group Preparation

(Following Week 1 of Church-Wide Series)

## Getting To Know You

1. When you are lost, which of the following are you most likely to do?
  - a. Stop and ask for directions.
  - b. Check a map.
  - c. Drive around until you find a place you're looking for.
  - d. Not admit to anyone that you're lost.

## Getting Started

2. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
3. Have you ever been under the leadership of someone you really depended on, like a boss, sports captain or teacher, who treated you badly? What reactions did you have? How did you respond?
4. When Jesus says "I am the Good Shepherd" in John 10, what term or terms do you think he might have used today to describe the role he wants to play in your life?

## Getting Into The Bible

5. Read Ezekiel 34:1-6. Jot down any insights you see regarding how the shepherds of Israel were treating the sheep (the people they were responsible for leading)? What was God's reaction? (v 2).
6. Shepherds naturally took from the sheep the produce described in verse 3. This is fair and reasonable but the expectation was that the shepherd would care for and protect the

flock. They were taking the privileges yet shirking their responsibilities. What was the result for the sheep of not having shepherds who cared for them? (v 4-6).

7. Read Ezekiel 34:7-10. Because God's flock lacked a shepherd and were plundered; because they were scattered and in danger; because the shepherds weren't out searching for them, God said he would act. "I will remove them," God said. "I will rescue my flock." What does this say about God's heart for his sheep? What does it say about the need that people have for a shepherd?
8. In Ezekiel 34:11-16, God promises that he will shepherd his flock. The picture is of sheep grazing on good land, feeling so safe and protected that they lie down. The Good Shepherd is enabling them to *Thrive!* What do you think the outworking of this image might look like in your life today, if you were to allow Jesus to be your Good Shepherd? (See Ezek. 34:23-24). What is stopping this from becoming a reality?

## Getting It Into My Life

9. Today many people are alive but not really living, not enjoying the peace that comes from having a Good Shepherd. Which one of the following is your biggest obstacle to allowing Jesus to shepherd you? If you feel comfortable, explain why.

self      sin      Satan      superficial spirituality

10. Read Colossians 2:6-7. According to these verses, what is involved in living the life God created us to live? Which of the following could you be more purposeful about this week? How?
  - a. Receive Christ as Lord.
  - b. Live daily in him.
  - c. Be rooted, built up and strengthened in faith