

More To Life - John 10:1-18 - LG

Theme: *Is There More to Life Than This?*

Key verse: *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* - John 10:10

Read the Word

Read **John 10:1-18** aloud.

Invite different voices for sections to keep attention and pace fresh.

Encourage everyone to listen for **contrast** - what's the difference between the *thief*, the *hired hand*, and the *shepherd*?

Explore the Passage

The Setting

Jesus is speaking to people who've seen blind eyes opened (John 9). He now explains *why* He came - not just to restore sight, but to offer *life in all its fullness*.

The Thief (v10)

| "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

Leader note: Help people unpack this slowly - don't rush to 'Satan'. The "thief" represents *anything that promises life apart from God* - possessions, pleasure, status, even religion.

It's the voice that whispers, *"You'll find life if you just have more, do more, achieve more."*

Discuss:

- What are some "thieves" in our culture that steal joy, peace, or hope?
- How have you experienced this in your own life?
- Why do we still find those false promises so tempting?

The Hired Hand (v12-13)

“The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep...”

Even those we rely on most - friends, systems, careers - can let us down.

Jesus contrasts Himself with these unreliable “hired hands”: He doesn’t abandon; He stays.

Discuss:

- How does Jesus’ care differ from “hired hands” in our lives?
- When have you felt abandoned or disappointed, and how did your faith sustain you?

❤️ The Good Shepherd (v11, 14–15)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

This is the *heart of the Gospel*: love to the point of sacrifice.

Jesus knows us - personally, intimately - and chooses to lay down His life *for us*.

This is not about mere survival but **abundant, rich, real life** - *life to the full*.

Leader note: Emphasise relationship and trust - “the sheep know His voice.” Encourage people to reflect on what that means for daily discipleship and prayer.

Discuss:

- What do you think “life to the full” really means?
- How can we better recognise and respond to the Shepherd’s voice in our lives?

Reflect & Apply

Leader note: Transition gently from discussion to reflection. Invite people to consider how this message meets them *personally*.

✳️ Three Big Truths:

1. **Made for Relationship** – “I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” (v14)

→ How is your relationship with Jesus growing? What helps you recognise His voice?

2. **Made for Purpose** – “Created in Christ Jesus to do good works...”
(Ephesians 2:10)

→ Where might Jesus be calling you to join Him in His work this week?

3. **Made for Eternity** – “I lay down my life only to take it up again.” (v17)

→ How does this eternal hope shape the way you live today?

Prompt for reflection:

- “What does ‘life in all its fullness’ look like for me right now?”
- “Where am I tempted to settle for less than what Jesus offers?”

Respond & Pray

- Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd - faithful, present, and sacrificial.
- Confess where we've followed false voices or false promises.
- Invite His Spirit to renew our joy, peace, and purpose - *life to the full*.