

# Weekly Devotion

*Week of March 15, 2026*

"The Work of Imagination" Series

"Accountable Leadership"

---

## MEMORY VERSE

---

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

— John 10:11

## SCRIPTURE

---

*"I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep."*

— **Ezekiel 34:11–12**

*"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."*

— **John 10:14–15**

## REFLECTION

---

We live in a world that is deeply hungry for trustworthy leadership. Not just competent leadership — but leadership that is honest, sacrificial, and genuinely oriented toward the good of others. Most of us have experienced the difference. We know what it feels like to work for someone who has our back. And we know what it feels like to be left behind by someone who was supposed to be looking out for us.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks into that hunger with startling directness. Writing to a people whose leaders had failed them catastrophically — shepherds who fed themselves while the flock scattered — he delivers a word of both reckoning and promise. God sees who is being neglected. God holds leaders accountable. And God, in the end, will come and do the shepherding himself.

That promise finds its fulfillment in Jesus. When he says “I am the good shepherd,” he is not offering a gentle pastoral image for a greeting card. He is making a claim — I am the one Ezekiel was talking about. I am the one who will do what the failed shepherds would not. I will know my sheep by name. I will go before them. I will stay when it costs me everything.

And here is the breathtaking part — this Shepherd turns to us and says: follow me. Not just as sheep who are led, but as people who are being formed into his image. People who learn, over time, to lead the way he leads. To notice the ones who are weak. To stay when it would be easier to run. To use whatever influence we carry in the service of others rather than ourselves.

This is the work of imagination that Lent invites us into. Not just believing that Jesus is the Good Shepherd — but daring to live as though his way of leading is actually possible. In our homes. Our workplaces. Our friendships. Our communities.

It begins not with trying harder, but with being known. Before we can shepherd others well, we must first allow ourselves to be found — to hear our own name called by the One who knows us fully and loves us completely.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

---

1.

Think of a leader in your life — past or present — who genuinely cared for the people in their charge. What did that look like in practice? How did it affect you?

2.

Ezekiel lists the weak, the sick, the injured, the strayed, and the lost as the ones most often neglected by failed leaders. Which of these groups is God calling your attention to right now?

3.

Jesus says the good shepherd *knows* his sheep — not just manages them or oversees them, but truly knows them. In the relationships where you have influence, how well do you actually know the people in your care?

4.

Where in your life do you find it hardest to stay when things get difficult — to lead with sacrifice rather than self-protection? What makes it hard?

5.

The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name. When did you last feel truly known — by God, or by another person? What was that like?

### DAILY ACTION STEP

---

This week, identify one person in your life who may be feeling unseen, overlooked, or left behind — at work, in your neighborhood, in your family, or in your faith community. Reach out to them in one simple, concrete way. A phone call. A handwritten note. A cup of coffee. A text that says, *“I’ve been thinking about you.”*

You do not need a title or a platform to lead like the Good Shepherd. You just need to notice the one — and go.

### A SHORT PRAYER

---

Good Shepherd,

Thank you for knowing my name. Thank you for not waiting for me to find my way back, but for coming into the wilderness to find me.

As I move through this week, open my eyes to the ones around me who need to be found. Give me the courage to stay when it would be easier to run, to give when it would be easier to hold back, and to lead in the small spaces of my daily life with the same love you have shown me.

Form me, slowly and steadily, into someone who looks a little more like you.

In your name — Amen.

---

*“The Work of Imagination” continues next Sunday.*

*Bring a friend. You are not meant to walk this season alone.*