

# 'I Am' the Good Shepherd

The group will each need pen/pencil & paper, plus a Bible. Also a marker pen and flipchart sheet for the group, and a concordance or electronic Bible.

- You are standing outside Wembley Arena and see crowds going in to a concert/gig. You can't see the sign saying which group is on that night, but could you get any clues from looking at the crowd? How, and what clues?
- Can you think of other examples where a group of people follow a lead from a hero or star? (Let them think for a bit before feeding any suggestions such as football teams, political parties, etc).
- It has been said that *all human beings model themselves on someone else and aim to be like them*. Do you think that is true? What are the dangers of this behaviour? (they might suggest the recent Al-Qaida activities, for instance.....there are plenty of examples). What are the good points?
- The Bible says that *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all* (Isaiah 53:6). We've been looking at the idea that we all follow a leader like sheep. On your large sheet make two columns, on the left write down a list of some of the ways in which people "have all gone astray" from God's leadership. Leave the righthand column blank for now.
- In the light of those thoughts, let's see what Jesus has to say. Read John 10 verses 1 to 18.
- Get two or three people in the group to try to summarise it using only 30 words (max). ie, what is Jesus trying to say here?
- In verse 9, Jesus talks about saving His sheep. What is He saving them from *according to what He says in verses 8 and 10*?
- How does 'the thief' destroy us?
- Knowing Jesus's voice seems to be crucial in verses 4 and 5. How do we know His voice/how can we know His voice? Let them discuss this for some time, hopefully the key ideas of knowing what the Bible says, spending time in prayer will come out.
- What are the dangers of not knowing Jesus's voice?
- Look back at your list of ways in which people go astray. Try to think of something that Jesus or the Bible teaches us that shows each one is wrong (write something next to as many as you can). Use the concordance/electronic Bible to help you find verses you think of and to write down their references.
- Individuals on their own write on their pieces of paper ways in which they know they are going astray, perhaps considering which of the items on the list are the big temptations for them.
- Spend some time as a group (or in pairs/threes) praying for each other.....it would be powerful if people could share what they have written but this is not to be forced on any one.

