

## *The Good Shepherd: Revealed & Rejected* Zechariah 10-11

Tribulation is the dog that goes after the stray sheep, and barks them back to the Good Shepherd. I thank God that there are such things as the visitations of correction and of holy discipline, to preserve our spirit, and bring us to Christ.

-Charles Spurgeon

### I. The Faithful Shepherd

## II. The Faithless Flock

### **Application:**

1) We have worked through a number of prophetic passages that have been fulfilled in human history. We have seen Alexander the Great conquer just as the prophet spoke about. We have seen Christ come humbly, mounted on a donkey. We read through the gospels and see that Jesus is unmistakably the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock, but is rejected by his people. But why do fulfilled prophecies matter? What do these things tell us about the nature of God? How does this practically and specifically impact our lives based on the promises God has made to us?

2) Where have you seen the Good Shepherd meet needs in your life? While many of us spend time praying corporately for needs, perhaps there are times when we fail to praise God corporately for his provision. In reality, we can be quick to find new needs and quick to forget how God has met our needs in the past. Share with the group a time or place where God unmistakably met your needs. Remember that this might be a time of physical provision, or maybe even a time of discipline as he met your need for correction and forgiveness. Spend time as a group rejoicing in the care of our Good Shepherd, and make it a point to look for God's provision in the coming week.

3) The promised Good Shepherd was met with the rejection of his people. Although Jesus loved them, taught them, fed them, and healed them, he would ultimately see a hard hearted and rebellious people. Are there ways that we reject the "shepherding" of God? Are there areas or circumstances in your life where you find it difficult to submit to his leading? Are there times when you doubt his ability or his care to meet your needs? If we are honest, we all have places where we can say, "I believe, help my unbelief!" Would you be willing to share with the group an area where you struggle to trust the shepherd?

4) One of the most remarkable aspects of these prophetic chapters are the promises given to a rebellious people. Historically, Israel was stubborn and quick to failure. When the Good Shepherd came, he was rejected by his people. And they were justly disciplined. But over and over we see that God refuses to ultimately reject the people that he has chosen for himself. How can that comfort us? Are there areas in your life that you as beyond redemption or forgiveness? Are there people in your life who you struggle to forgive? How does the mercy of God change our thinking about our own failure and the failures of others?

**For Families:**

5) Talk to your kids about their need for a shepherd. Remind them that God is the only source of real protection, provision, and hope for them. Give them examples of his tender care in your life, and see if they can think of examples from their own life.