I am the good shepherd.  
*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.* John 10:11

As I was entering my teenage years you could say I was stubborn. Frequently my mom would make a simple suggestions like, “You could clean your room so your friends can come over tomorrow.” Or, “Why don’t you start on that project due next week?” These suggestions almost always made me want to do something else entirely, but when the next week came and the project was due my mom would always put my needs above hers, sacrifice her own sleep, and stay up into the wee hours of the morning to help me finish the project. To me, this epitomizes Jesus’ message in John 10:11. A shepherd is a person who tends, herds, feeds, or guards a flock of sheep. Much like my mom who guided and tended to me when I needed her most, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is always right beside you, guarding and looking out for you. Just like a shepherd guides the sheep to green fields and away from dangerous cliffs, the Good Shepherd will also guide you throughout your daily life - if you will only listen and follow.

As you listen through your daily prayers, devotions, and quiet times, you will begin to understand the guidance and more closely follow the selflessness of the Good Shepherd. Perhaps St. Francis of Assisi said it best when he said, “Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.”

**Life Question:** How can you listen to the guidance and follow the selflessness of the Good Shepherd today?

**Prayer:** God among us, give me your ears so I can listen to your guidance and your heart so I can follow your example and serve others before myself. Amen.

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