



Discussion Guide for The Good Shepherd

Monday Messiah Week 4

Karl Marx famously claimed that religion was the ‘opiate of the masses’. He meant what we know – religion can be a powerful means of controlling people. This was as true in Jesus’ day as it is in ours. How can we learn to spot religious manipulation? And what tools do we have available to us to learn to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus himself?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[John 10:11-18](#)

[Ezekiel 34:2-5, 11-12](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[Acts 4:5-12](#)

[1 John 3:16-24](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Psalm 23](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some examples of religious abuse you’ve seen in the world (or experienced in your own life)?
2. Why is religion such a powerful tool for controlling people?
3. According to Jesus, what makes him a good shepherd? How does this help us spot religious frauds?
4. As you have done Sacred Readings of Psalm 23, what has God said to you?
5. What is your next right step with Jesus this week?