

---

*Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.*

**SERIES:** I'm Him

**MESSAGE TITLE:** Greener Grass

**MESSAGE OVERVIEW:** We are always looking for greener grass. But the things we think will get us there often fail; even those we love can fall short. There is only one way to the pastures our souls need, and it's through the good shepherd. He provides all we need for today, tomorrow, and for eternity.

**FOCUS PASSAGE:** John 11

**BREAKING IT DOWN:**

1. What "greener grass" solutions have you sought? How was the road there? Was the destination all you hoped it would be?
2. Talking to the religious leaders of the day, Jesus compares himself to thieves (people who come deceitfully in God's name), *the thief* (Satan, who seeks only our destruction), and the hired hand (empty religious leaders who pursue power, image, money, etc). What do these three have in common? What do they offer? How do they differ from Jesus? What is He offering?
3. Thieves are only in it for themselves and hired hands retreat when the going gets tough. But Jesus is the good shepherd. He knows us and lays down his life for us. What does that say about God? And about you?
4. Feeling like we are missing out is like a warning light on our dashboard; it says there is something missing in our hearts. The strategy of constantly searching for something new or different will never provide the fulfillment we seek. The change we *really* need is an internal one, and it happens when we understand Jesus is the gate, and apply faith to how we live. It's found in what Jesus wants to do in our hearts.
5. Read Psalm 23. What needs does Jesus meet? Does it sound like His presence and help are intermittent, or can we always depend on Him for everything? Can you trust Him?

**WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:**

Listen for His voice - instead of chasing what you think will satisfy, listen for Jesus. He speaks to us more than we realize; plan some intentional quiet time with Him.

Trust Him - Jesus knows you and has the authority, strength, wisdom, and love to see you through anything into greener pastures. He wants to start cultivating them in you today.

