Series: A New Heart**:** The Book of Ezekiel
Message: The True Shepherd Ezekiel 34

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
When human leaders fail us, God doesn't abandon the flock — he becomes the Shepherd himself, and that Shepherd has a face: Jesus Christ.	The Bible Project Guide: Ezekiel

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. Read Ezekiel 34:1–6. What were the shepherds supposed to do, and what were they doing instead? Look at the five things in verse 4 they neglected. Why do you think God describes their leadership as ruling "with violence and cruelty," the same language used of Pharaoh in Exodus 1:13–14?

2. Read Ezekiel 34:11–16. Count how many times God says "I will." God doesn't promise to send better shepherds; he promises to come himself. How do his actions in verses 11–16 reverse what the bad shepherds failed to do in verses 4–6?

3. Read Ezekiel 34:17–22. Now God turns to the flock. Who are the "fat sheep," and what are they doing to the weaker sheep? Why do you think God holds the leaders accountable first, but doesn't let the sheep off the hook?

4. Read Ezekiel 34:23–24 and John 10:7–11. God promises "My servant David" will shepherd his people, even though David had been dead for about 400 years. How does Jesus claim this promise for himself in John 10? What makes him different from the "thieves and robbers" who came before him?

Heart: Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

5. Ezekiel 34 shows that God is not neutral when people in authority harm those in their care. Have you, or someone close to you, been hurt by a leader who used their position for themselves (a coach, boss, parent, teacher, church leader, etc.)? How does it change things to know God takes the side of the wounded?

6. It's easy to see ourselves as the hurt sheep and harder to admit we can be the fat sheep. Where are you tempted to take the best for yourself and leave second best or the leftovers for others: at school, at work, on a team, at home, or even at church? What does that reveal about why we need the Shepherd's grace, not just better behavior?

7. In verse 16, God promises to seek the lost, bring back the strays, bandage the injured, and strengthen the weak. Which of those four describes you most right now? What would it look like to let Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for you, care for you there instead of trying to fix it yourself?

Hands: Living it Out

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

8. The Shepherd's peace works in two directions: peace with God and peace with others. Where do you most need his peace this week? Name one honest next step. (Remember: peace with others doesn't mean returning to someone unsafe or pretending nothing happened. Reconciliation requires repentance and safety, and healing takes time.)

9. Every one of us shepherds someone: a younger sibling, teammates, children, coworkers, friends, or this group. Name one person under your influence. Which action from verse 4 (strengthen, heal, bandage, bring back, or seek) can you do for them this week, and how?

10. Ezekiel 34:17–22 shows that pushing and trampling can happen inside the flock, but Jesus “is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14) and makes peace among his people possible. What would it look like for our church to be marked by the Shepherd’s peace, where the strong make room for the weak instead of pushing them aside? Close by praying together for what you envision for GC2 Church: unity, for humble and faithful leaders, and for those who feel on the edges to be welcomed and cared for.