**Title: I Am the Good Shepherd**

**I. Introduction**

* Brief overview of the biblical passage: John 10:11-18
* Importance of the "Good Shepherd" metaphor in Christian theology

**II. Understanding the Shepherd**

* The role of a shepherd in biblical times
  + Protector and caretaker of the flock
  + Provider of food, water, and shelter
  + Guide through difficult terrain.
* Jesus as the Good Shepherd
  + His role is in guiding, protecting, and providing for His followers.

**III. The Characteristics of the Good Shepherd**

* **Self-Sacrifice**: John 10:11 - "The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
  + Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross
  + The significance of self-sacrifice in the Christian faith
* **Personal Relationship**: John 10:14 - "I know my sheep and my sheep know me."
  + The intimate and personal relationship between Jesus and His followers
  + The importance of knowing and being known by Jesus.
* **Protection from Danger**: John 10:12-13 - The hired hand vs. the Good Shepherd
  + The Good Shepherd's commitment to protecting the flock from harm.
  + Jesus' role in defending His followers from spiritual dangers.

**IV. The Sheep's Response**

* **Hearing and Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice**: John 10:3-4
  + The importance of listening to and following Jesus.
  + How believers can discern Jesus' voice in their lives
* **Trusting the Shepherd**: John 10:27-28
  + The assurance of eternal life and security in Jesus
  + Trusting in Jesus' guidance and care in all circumstances

**V. Application for Today**

* **Living as Sheep of the Good Shepherd**
  + Building a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and scripture
  + Trusting in Jesus' protection and guidance in daily life
* **Emulating the Good Shepherd's Characteristics**
  + Practicing self-sacrifice and love for others
  + Building strong, caring relationships within the church and community

**VI. Conclusion**