

SERMON  
NEXT GENERATION SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 2, 2022

Hi everyone, I'm Norah and I'm going to be doing the sermon today. Now there's a lot I can talk about today. I could talk about Youth Sunday, I could talk about about World Communion, or I could talk about the bible story today — the Good Shepherd. I chose the Good Shepherd.

Now I have heard the Good Shepherd a lot. It's a story we hear about in Godly Play almost every year and I have been at Seattle First Baptist before I was old enough to be in Godly Play.

But there is one thing I haven't heard anyone talk about, including myself, and it's something I wonder about a lot. I wonder [why] we use that phrase a lot in church. I wonder why the other shepherd did the things he did to make him THE OTHER shepherd. You know it feels kinda like what you'd say if you heard you had a substitute, and asked a classmate which one it was and they say "It's that substitute" and you'd respond with "Oh, THAT SUBSTITUTE."

Now in the story that you know cause you heard it but we'll do a little sum up. The Good Shepherd took the sheep to the green grass to the blue water and through the scary sad places, and he would count his sheep in case he had lost one (or she). I wonder why we assume the shepherd is a he. It just says the Good Shepherd in the story, but thats for another sermon cause that is a wondering that will take a while — but back to the story.

So the shepherd would count his sheep, and if he lost one he would look everywhere — even in the scary sad places until he found the missing sheep and carried the sheep home. But when the Good Shepherd was gone The Other Shepherd came to take care of the sheep. Now I don't like the name The Other Shepherd just cause he wasn't as good as the Good Shepherd.

Dosen't mean he's lesser or THE OTHER shepherd, so how about we call him Jepherd. Yes, let's call him Jepherd.

When Jepherd came to take care of the sheep he didn't take them from place to place — he let them wander. And that is a big part of the sermon. I wonder why Jepherd didn't take the sheep to the green grass and the blue water and through the sad scary places. Why didn't Jepherd count the sheep? Was it because he was scared of the scary sad places cause as the name says the scary sad places are sad and scary? Maybe he needed someone to help him go through the scary sad places before he could go through the sad scary places.

Maybe before Jepherd became THE OTHER shepherd he was a sheep, and the Good Shepherd was THE OTHER shepherd, but then the Good Shepherd at the time helped The Other Shepherd now the Good Shepherd through the scary sad places before he could become the current Good Shepherd.

And even now I bet sometimes the old Good Shepherd helps the Good Shepherd through the sad scary places, and maybe when none of the shepherds can help the sheep help each other through the scary sad parts, and you know that's part of what I love about this church community is we are the sheep leading each other through the scary sad spots when the shepherds can't. And if Jepherd had needed it I'm sure we would've let him be a sheep and us the shepherds leading him through the scary sad parts, because no one is perfect and no one can be the Good Shepherd all the time. So I hope, church family, that you can be the herd of sheep leading each other [through] the scary and sad times and be the Good Shepherd to whoever needs it, but also make sure to let someone else be your Good Shepherd when you need it.